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AMERICAN

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THE MAGAZINE FOR SAFER LIVING

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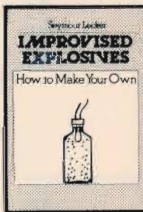
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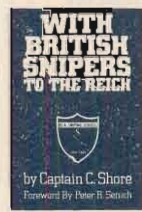
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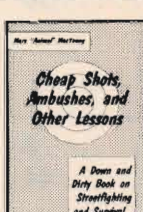
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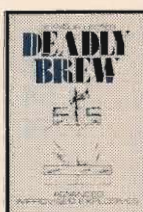
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THE MAGAZINE FOR SAFER LIVING

APRIL 1989 VOLUME 11 NUMBER 4

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The Swiss SIG 550 SP assault rifle in 5.56 mm caliber: quality, reliability, accuracy. See page 26 (Photo by Scott Stoddard).

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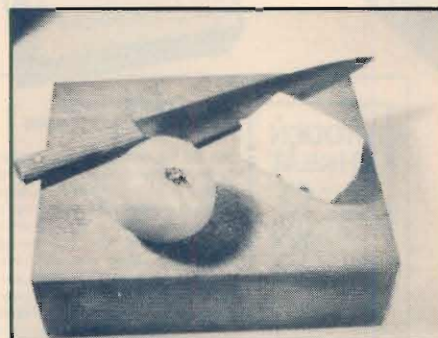
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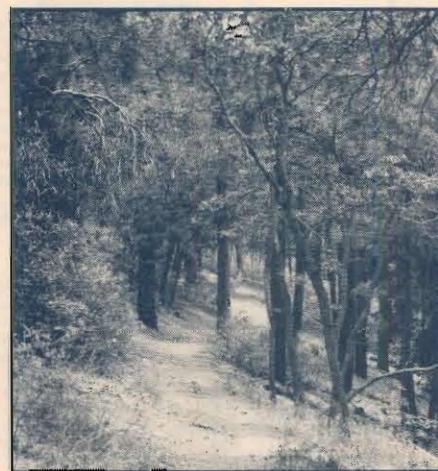
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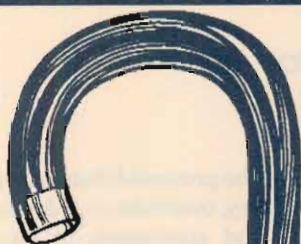
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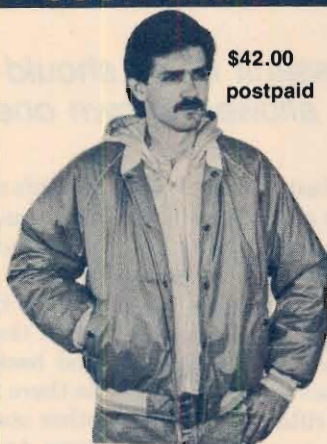
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TO THE POINT

Assault rifles: should you be allowed to own one?...

IN this column last month I discussed the plans of anti-gun California officials for a campaign to outlaw semiautomatic assault weapons.

Not long after that column was finished the troubled drifter Patrick Edward Purdy committed the Stockton, California, school massacre with his AK-47 assault rifle, killing five young elementary students and wounding 29 others and a teacher at the Cleveland Elementary School where he had gone as a boy. After this despicable shooting rampage during which he was unopposed by anyone, Purdy then shot himself to death.

The anti-gunners, eagerly assisted by their allies in the media, have been doing everything they can ever since the shooting to whip the public outrage over it into a hysteria in the hopes of accomplishing their goal of an outright banning of all assault weapons in civilian hands.

The anti-gun *Los Angeles Times* demanded in an editorial after the shootings that Congress "ban such high-tech weapons and pass a law requiring a police check on all would-be gun purchasers so that felons, drug abusers and the mentally ill can be screened out... How many more must die before responsibility and sanity finally prevail in Congress?"

This emotional hype does not sway my strong belief in the public's right to responsible, law-abiding possession and use of semiautomatic paramilitary weapons as well as other types of firearms.

Despite the fact that the Los Angeles police chief and Los Angeles County sheriff as well as the California State Senate president and attorney general want to ban these guns and say, along with California Gov. George Deukmejian, there is "no need" and no legitimate purpose for the public ownership of these firearms, I strongly disagree.

It is absurd, say these officials and many of the most vociferous anti-gunners, that anyone can walk into a gun store and buy an assault rifle and walk out with it moments later. The

public's need to be protected from these weapons, they say, overrides any desire of collectors and sportsmen to own them.

They have a point when they complain that there is no waiting period and background check on long guns as there currently is in California and other states for the purchase of handguns. And I could live with such a waiting period and background check for assault rifles and shotguns, although I have my doubts about its effectiveness in keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and at least some mentally ill people. But if it helps, so much the better. I'm not a fan of gun registration, but we already have it anyway, for the most part, and waiting periods (not excessively long ones) and background checks wouldn't make my life or the lives of other law-abiding citizens miserable, nor infringe too much on their rights.

Yet I doubt if even this would have kept Patrick Purdy from purchasing his AK-47 from the Oregon gun store where he obtained it. And his attack on the Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton was only the latest of many such gun assaults on schools and colleges over the years, some of which have resulted in even more people dying than Purdy's attack.

Public schools with their large concentrations of helpless children have long been tempting targets for angry, deranged, sociopathic individuals and greater efforts must be made by school and local officials to upgrade security for the schools.

The real issue for me is whether you, as a responsible, law-abiding citizen, should have the right to own a firearm that can match the firepower of weapons that could be used against you and your family in the event of a war, terrorist attack, riot, looting or marauding following a disaster such as a devastating earthquake, etc. The anti-gun types say you must rely on police and military for protection in such cases and that these instances are extremely unlikely to occur anyway. What do you think? — *Jim Benson.*

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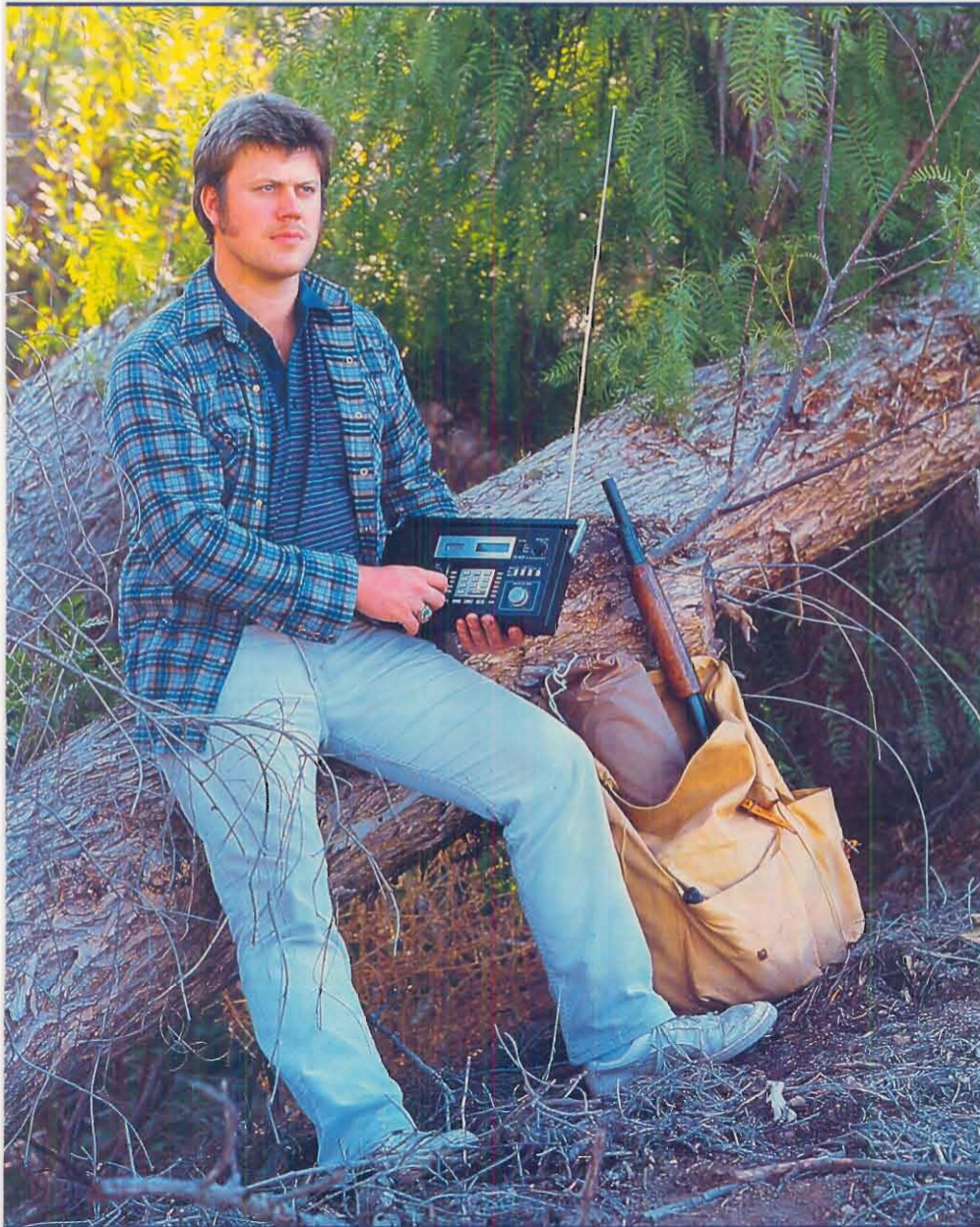
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Survival Shortwave Receivers

*For remote listening
and emergency news,
a shortwave radio
brings you the
world...*

By Martin Hasa



ALTHOUGH millions of TV viewers across the world are blissfully unaware of it, shortwave radio is alive and well. In fact, there are probably more stations transmitting news, weather and entertainment programs world-wide than ever before in the history of radio.

"So what?" you ask. "I get all that on TV, I've got cable with five zillion channels to choose from. What the hell do I care about boring old radio for? Besides, I get great music in stereo on 97.5 FM any time of the day. I don't need that scratchy, noisy AM nonsense if I can always get crisp sound and a great color picture."

OK, try this experiment: Drive about 80 miles out into the boonies next weekend. Bring that color portable and the kid's "Ghetto-Blaster." Set up camp, relax, and tune-in your favorite local TV station to watch the ball game. "What?" you say, you get nothing but snow? Oh well, I guess the set's busted, or the antenna isn't high enough. No problem, we'll power up the radio instead. What do you mean you can't tune-in KTWANG out here? Nothing at all on FM? OK, try AM. Yeah, the noisy scratchy stuff.

Bingo, now we have something! Tune carefully, and... Yeah! there it is! Hang on... What did they say? New Mexico? That's over 800 miles away!

OK, now you see just how reliable your favorite TV and FM stations are when you're farther than around 70 miles away. Don't blame them, that's just the way radio propagation works at their frequencies.



A typical selection of shortwave receivers. Bottom left: AM/FM/shortwave receiver with price of \$50 - \$70. Top center: Medium priced receiver with single-side-band. Bottom right: Amateur Radio transceiver with full coverage from 150 KHz to 30 MHz. Price change is \$750 - \$1,200.

The radio spectrum stretches over a wide range of frequencies, from around 10 Kilohertz (10,000 cycles per second) up through the microwaves at one Gigahertz (1,000,000,000 cycles per second) and above.

The distance a given signal will travel depends on many factors, but its frequency is probably the most significant of them. At frequencies of 30 Megahertz and above, commonly referred to as VHF (Very High Frequency) and UHF (Ultra High Frequency), radio signals generally travel a path called line-of-sight. When these signals reach the horizon, they usually keep on traveling out through the atmosphere and on into space. This is why a ground-level signal would only be likely to travel about 30 miles before it begins to provide entertainment for E.T.

In the United States all FM radio and all TV stations operate in the VHF and UHF portions of the spectrum. Since the majority of TV and FM stations have antennas on very tall towers or on mountaintops, their line-of-sight distance is approximately doubled.

This still limits their practical range to significantly less than 100 miles.

Frequencies between around one and 30 Megahertz are generally referred to as shortwaves, or HF (High Frequency). When these signals hit the upper atmosphere, they are reflected back to earth, which significantly increases their range. Multiple hops

or "skips," as they are referred to, result in the signal traveling many thousands of miles from the transmitter site, even though that's way beyond the horizon.

It should now be clear that while your local FM and TV signal passed over your head and out into space, the AM station which transmits at the bottom of the shortwave spectrum (often referred to as medium waves) got to you by a bounced signal while probably using less power than the VHF stations.

Now that you have some insight into the way radio signals get from the transmitter to your receiver at different frequencies, you can see that in a crisis situation which calls for an evacuation to a distant location, few if any TV or FM stations will be available to you.

However, for less than the cost of that 19-inch Sony you've had your eye on, you can get a quality shortwave receiver, which, in the above scenario could be your only source of information and/or entertainment for some time.

Deciding on which shortwave receiver to buy among the dozens available to the general public is not an easy task. Factors to consider are price, portability, accessories and durability. Also, the type of station or signal you will want to receive will play a major role in your decision. You may only be interested in international broadcast bands, in which case you need nothing more than a simple

shortwave receiver capable of receiving AM only. This is the standard mode of transmission for all commercial shortwave stations and networks, such as the BBC, the Voice of America and a myriad of others. A simple AM shortwave receiver of this type can be had for less than a hundred bucks.

On the other hand, if your interests expand into the realm of utility, maritime, private or amateur communications, a good receiver with single-side-band and possibly a CW mode (Morse code) is a must. Having some idea of the type of information you may want to listen to will go a long way towards helping you decide which unit will serve you best. SSB receivers will range in price from \$150 and up, depending on features and performance. If possible, get demonstrations of several models before laying down several hundred bucks.

There are many sources available for buying a receiver. The advertising in magazines catering to the needs of electronic hobbyists, Amateur Radio operators and shortwave listeners is a good place to start your search. Here is a brief list of publications to look at: *Radio Electronics Magazine*, *Monitoring Times*, *73 Amateur Radio Magazine*, *Hobby Electronics*, *Ham Radio Magazine*, *QSL Magazine*, *Radio Shack Catalog*.

This is by no means a complete list of sources, nor is it an endorsement of any of the publications mentioned, but it should suffice as a good starting point for you. Also check out your local Amateur Radio supplier if there is one in your area. Their personnel will probably be happy to demonstrate their wares.

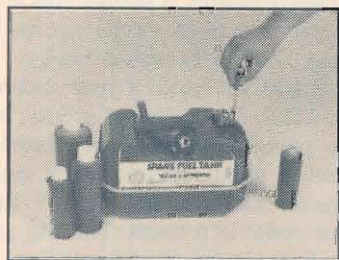
Radio Operation — Once you have purchased the radio of your choice, get thoroughly acquainted with its operation. Read and understand the instruction manual thoroughly. Instruction manuals have the uncanny ability to disappear just when you need them the most, so know your radio well enough not to have to refer to the manual.

Next to the radio itself, the most important accessories to get would be a reliable power source, without which the radio is nothing more than ballast, and a good, efficient antenna.

Since you purchased the receiver with emergency use in mind, the radio, power source and the antenna must be totally portable. The radio will probably run on house current, or "C" or "D" size batteries. An accessory

(Continued on page 60)

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SURVIVAL LINE

Anti-gun 'gun awareness' program launched in Florida, State Department's travel advisory service, another bad year for banks, faulty radon test...

IN what is purported to be an attempt to stem the rising tide of violence, both accidental and intentional, in the public schools of Dade County Florida, officials of the Dade County Board of Education have adopted the nation's first "gun awareness" program. While the name sounds benign the "gun awareness" program seems to be little more than a massive anti-gun propaganda indoctrination of school children from the first grade through high school graduation. Says Board of Education Associate Superintendent James Fleming, "simply put, we are conveying the message that guns are bad — they kill."

The program targets its youngest students with a just-say-no-to-guns message. Fear of guns is emphasized. Moments of silence, in memory of people killed by firearms, are held.

The program extends to the home also. One of the intentions of the program is to convince any parents who do own a firearm that ownership is a threat to their child. The program encourages the children to "educate" their parents about guns.

Travel Survival — If you're planning a trip abroad this summer and are concerned about the possibility of terrorism or political violence, the U.S. State Department's travel advisory service can provide you with up to date information about political hot spots around the world.

The service offers recorded advice on areas where civil unrest, natural disaster, increased terrorist activity, or outbreaks of disease, could present a threat to an American traveller. Travel advisories detailing specific areas to be avoided within a given region or country are also issued by the service.

While the advisories can be quite detailed they are not intended to warn travellers of specific terrorist threats. Says a State Department spokesman, "isolated international terrorist or criminal attacks... occur virtually anywhere at any time (and therefore) do not trigger a travel advisory. The

State Department travel advisory service can be reached 24 hours a day at (202) 647-5225.

Dubious Record — 1988 was, like the six previous years, a record year for U.S. bank failures. According to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FDIC, the agency which guarantees individual accounts up to \$100,000, some 200 bank failures were reported across the country. An additional 21 banks survived 1988, but are considered by the FDIC to be on the brink of failure. The FDIC insures some 13,000 banks in the U.S. whose assets total over \$50 billion.

Savings and loan institutions also fared poorly in 1988. The Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, FSLIC, estimates that of the 3,100 member associations, some 500 are currently insolvent, with 500 others very close to insolvency.

Despite these gloomy statistics, FDIC chairman William Seedman sees a ray of hope for the banking industry in the upcoming year. Seedman predicts that the rate of bank failures will level out in 1989. He bases this prediction on an improving farm economy and a bottoming out of the effects of the early 1980s oil bust in the Southwest and Texas.

Faulty Radon Tests — Recently a consumer advocacy group, Public Citizen, conducted the first comprehensive accuracy tests of do-it-yourself home radon test kits. A number of the test kits, and the labs which analyze them failed to meet the standards set by the Environmental Protection Administration, EPA. The EPA, which plans to start its own testing program of home radon test kits, advises homeowners to conduct a number of radon tests before investing in costly radon removal projects.

For a complete listing and rating of the kits checked by Public Citizen, send a \$2 check or money order, (payable to Buyers Up) Radon Guide, P.O. Box 33487, Washington, DC 20033-0487. ●



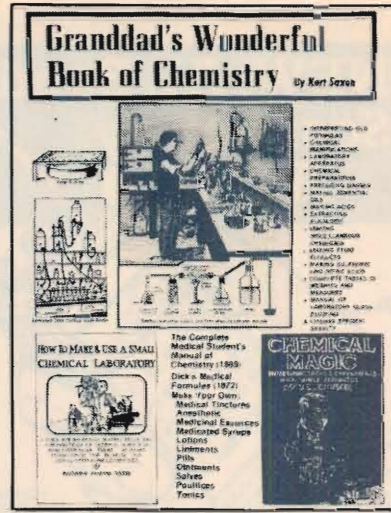
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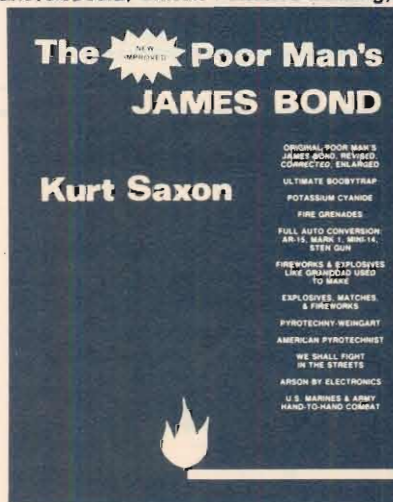
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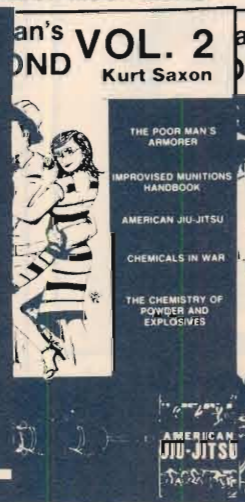
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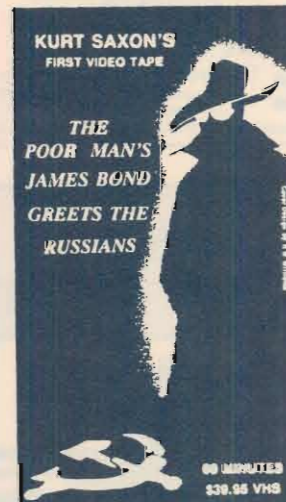
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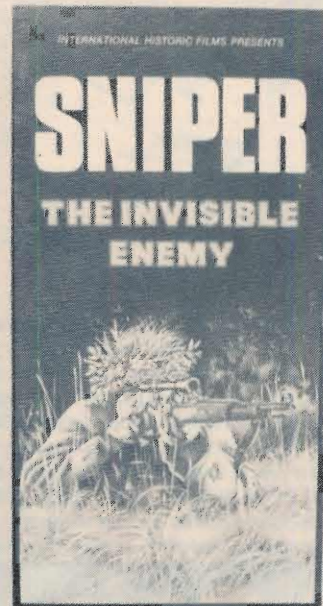


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Sniper, The Invisible Enemy, video-cassette; 67 minutes, black and white; VHS or Beta; International Historic Films, Inc., Dept. ASG, Box 29035, Chicago, IL 60629; 1-800-358-1000, ext. 700; \$49 plus \$2 S&H (foreign orders add \$5 for PAL standard).

Drawn from two World War II German military training films for snipers made in 1944, this fascinating video tape provides the Nazi views on tactics, weapons, and camouflage techniques of sniping that are still viable today. English voice-over commentary and subtitles. This video is not only instructional but a highly interesting piece of military history. Ask for free catalog of more than 300 video tapes of military and political history and foreign films.



Wilderness Survival Skills, a video with John Street. VHS, 90 minutes, includes waterproof survival manual; \$69.95 plus \$3 shipping and handling; additional manuals available for \$4.95 each. To order contact: Survival Research Associates, Inc., 2179 Canal Drive, Dept. ASG, Lake Park, FL 33410; (407) 622-8922.

John Street, a leading authority on wilderness survival, shows step by step how to develop the following ten necessary skills for outdoor survival: survival planning, forecasting weather, handling emergencies, providing shelter, treating water, making fires, signaling rescuers, understanding navigation, acquiring food and assembling tools. A very comprehensive work, *Wilderness Survival Skills* is a good teaching tool. Besides having the advantage of learning these skills through an audio-visual format, a small waterproof manual with a bright orange case is included for quick reference in the field.



The Ruger .22 Automatic Pistol, by Duncan Long; Paladin Press, P.O. Box 1307, Dept. ASG, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-7250; 168 pages, softcover; \$12 plus \$3 shipping.

"Ruger's Little Pistol," the reliable, accurate .22 auto that started Sturm, Ruger and Company on the route to success, is also renowned for its toughness. This "little" pistol has seen a lot of action as a clandestine weapon by

CIA "spooks" and Special Forces troops, as well as rugged use by sportsmen. Duncan Long's book goes well beyond the owner's manual to give you exploded diagrams that show how to field-strip it — and reassemble with a minimum of fuss — or even detail-strip it down to the last pin and spring. The history of the firearm is outlined, as well as commercial and experiment ammunition for the pistol. The book offers information on modifications around the basic framework so you can create a survival gun, target pistol, outstanding plinker or exotic weapon.

DON PENTECOST
PUT 'EM DOWN,
TAKE 'EM OUT!



Knife Fighting
Techniques from
Folsom Prison

Put 'Em Down, Take 'Em Out! Knife Fighting Techniques from Folsom Prison, by Don Pentecost. Paladin Press, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-7250; 64 pages, soft-cover, \$8 plus \$3 postage and handling.

Knife fighting theory can be learned through books, magazines and martial arts training, but unless you've actually been in a fight, it's all theory. The techniques shown in *Put 'Em Down, Take 'Em Out!* were developed in one of the most violent environments on earth — inside Folsom Prison. These are techniques that go far beyond what you will encounter on the streets. In brief simple language this book explains the difference between knife fighting fantasy and knife fighting reality. Chapters include information on the basics of knife fighting, knife fighting myths, and training. The chapter on knife defense will help you maximize your chances for surviving a knife attack. (Continued on page 68)

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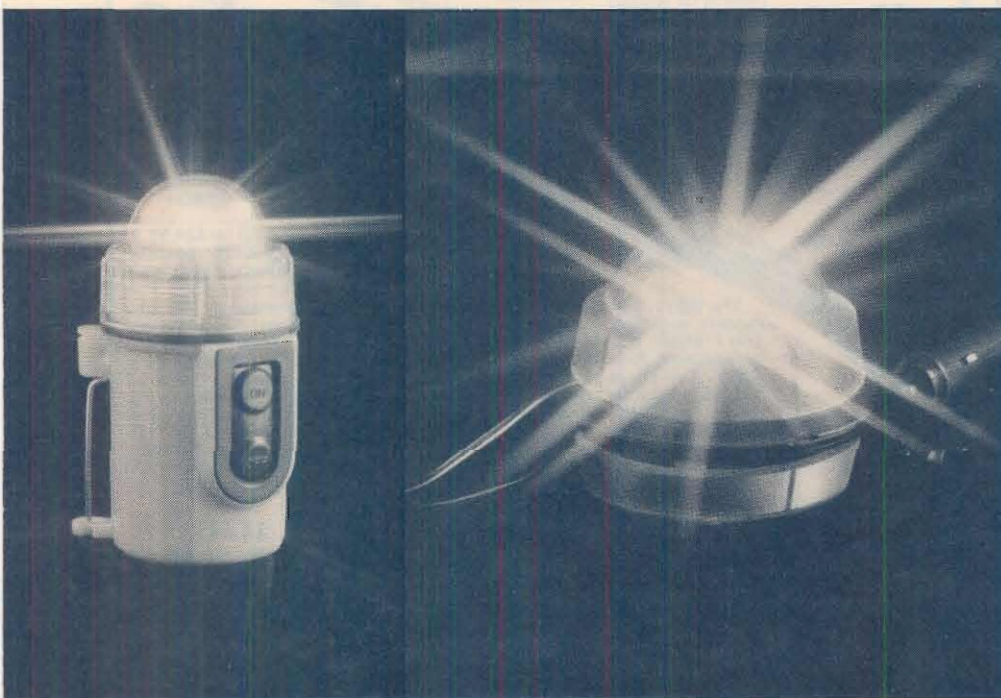


Serape Shelter

Finally, an economical way to stay dry and comfortable in wet weather: the Serape Shelter, combining the proven design of the old world serape with state-of-the-art materials. It converts from poncho to individual shelter cover in seconds. It's very light, compact (fits folded inside a BDU cargo pocket), durable and waterproof. The Serape Shelter is \$14.95 plus \$1.50 S&H from Creative Convenience Marketing, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 86, Hoquiam, WA 98550; (206) 532-7722. Washington residents add 7.8 percent sales tax.

Emergency Strobe Lights

Weatherproof, lightweight and made of tough plastic, these two xenon tube emergency strobe units can be seen for up to five miles and provide 60 flashes per minute. You can choose either one for a variety of applications, or buy both. The portable "pin on" unit is powered by a D cell battery and has an on-off switch, removable magnetic base for attachment to metal objects and a safety clip for attachment to clothing, life vest or back pack. The "suction cup" model is for use on boats, cars or other vehicles and operates off a 12-volt car battery through the cigarette lighter. Comes with 10-foot extension cord and plug for cigarette lighter. Each strobe is \$19 and \$14 for each additional unit, postpaid, from The Dutchman, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 12548, Overland Park, KS 66212; 1-800-821-5157; Missouri residents call (816) 221-3581.



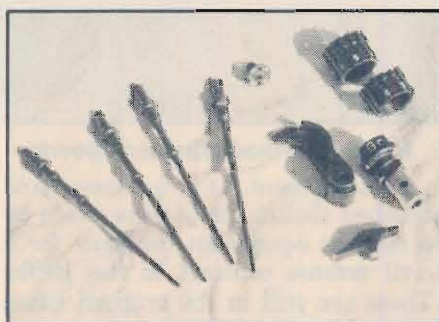
Bushmaster Survival Knife

The Bushmaster features a 10-inch stainless steel blade with sawteeth, sure grip hollow handle with guard and precision compass in the butt cap, nylon sheath with three pockets carrying a snake bite kit, flash light, G.I. can opener, wire saw and sharpening stone. In the handle is a survival kit stored in a plastic tube containing Morse code, matches and striker, fish line, hooks and sinkers, scalpel blade and band aid. Overall length of the knife is 15½ inches, blade is 1⅞ inches wide. Handle is high tensile aluminum. Price is \$32 plus \$3 S&H or two for \$60 postpaid from SI, Dept. ASG, 15600 S. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90248; (213) 324-8855 or 8859; outside California call toll free (800) 533-7415.



Bulk Grains

NITRO-PAK introduces a new dimension in bulk storage foods: a wide variety of grains and legumes double packed in Space Age metalized sealed dual-layered inner foil liners inside plastic buckets. The inner foil liners provide the best possible protection for long-term storage and keep out toxic odors from the plastic buckets. Each sealed liner goes beyond the conventional nitrogen probe method used by most dealers and is vacuumed tight to remove oxygen and then sealed tight in pure inert nitrogen atmosphere. Then each heavy duty six-gallon plastic bucket is sealed shut with a tight fitting gasketed lid. NITRO-PAK bulk units of pinto, red, baby lima and small white beans, white rice, split green peas, soy beans, kidney beans, whole yellow corn, rolled oats, rye, yellow popcorn, millet, 9-grain cereal, germade (cream wheat) and hard winter wheat. Packed in net weight units of between 40 and 45 pounds, prices for these bulk grains and legumes range from \$19.95 per unit for the winter wheat to \$59 per unit for the baby lima beans. Price discounts for quantity purchases. All grains are shipped freight collect. Order from NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies, Dept. ASG, 11018 E. Rosecrans Ave., Suite 300, Norwalk, CA 90650; (213) 929-4705.



Original FN-FAL Parts

Now you can have original highest-quality Belgian-made parts for your

Solar Cool Hat

Now you can relax and be cool in the heat with this new custom designed baseball cap featuring a solar-powered fan with battery backup mounted on the bill. The fan keeps your head and brow cool while working or just enjoying the outdoors. Camouflage color. The cap is available for \$21.95 from NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies, Dept. ASG, 11018 E. Rosecrans Ave., Suite 300, Norwalk, CA 90650; (213) 929-4705.

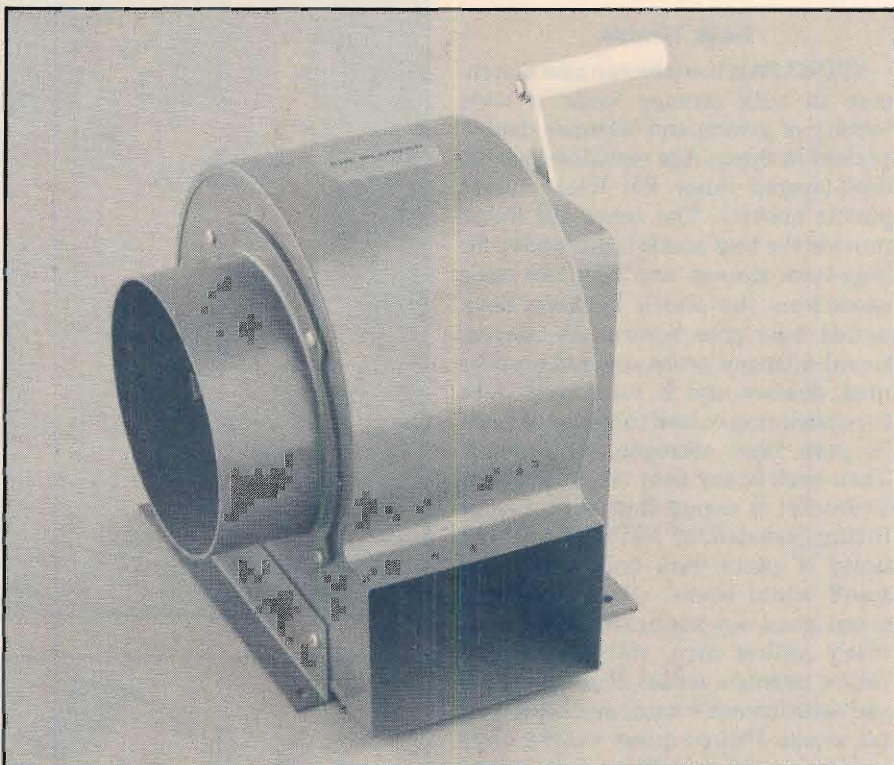


FN-FAL .308 battle rifle or foreign versions. T.R. Goodwin of Glendale, Arizona, offers a variety of original Belgian FAL firing pins, hammers, bolts, front and rear sights, 5-, 10- and 20-round (FN, Israeli and Argentine) magazines and other spare parts for the FAL rifle. Some parts are available in limited quantity, such as hard chrome firing pins and rare German border police sniper rifle hammer and sear kits. There are also original Belgian manuals for the FN-FAL printed in Belgium. Orders are shipped UPS and payment should include appropriate shipping charges. Payment by money order only. Include S.A.S.E. for limited items. Funds returned immediately if items ordered are sold out. For details see ad in this issue. Order from T.R. Goodwin, 4397 W. Bethany Home Road, #1330, Glendale, AZ 85301.

NEW PRODUCTS

2000 Channel Scanner

AOR, Ltd. announces a new scanner featuring 2,000 channels, extremely broad coverage and high speed scanning. The unit has a built in interface to a computer's RS232 port for programming, unattended control and frequency activity logging. The new radio is designed for either table top or underdash use and has dimensions of 3¹/₇ inches high by 5²/₅ inches wide by 7⁷/₈ inches deep. Weight is 2 lbs., 10 ozs. Frequency coverage allows the receiver to pull in distant short wave broadcasts from all over the world besides being able to listen to super high frequency microwave broadcasts and everything in between. The scanner covers 5MHz to 1,500MHz at 36 channels per second. The design of the unit assures a high level of image rejection, the most common cause of interference in broad coverage receivers. Sensitivity will typically be better than .35uV @ 12dB Sinad in narrow band FM from 10MHz to 1.5GHz. AM sensitivity in the 10MHz to 1.0 GHz range is better than 1.2uV for 10dB S/N. Tuning increments are 5KHz, 10KHz, 12.5KHz plus 25KHz and are user selectable. A BFO with finer tuning resolution and SSB ability will be available as an option. The receiver is capable of scanning 62 banks of 32 different frequencies each for a total of 1,984 scanned frequencies. An additional 16 memory locations are set aside for beginning and ending search limit frequency pairs. Bank 1 can be designated as a priority bank, thus giving higher priority to up to 32 different frequencies. The scan rate of 36 channels or search increments per second will automatically slow to compensate for tuning lags if adjacent frequencies are more than 30MHz apart. A built in RS232 interface device allows the radio to be controlled or programmed by any computer with a standard serial port. Suggested retail price is \$695. Owners of AR2002s can have their units upgraded to AR2515s for \$250. For more details contact ACE Communications, Dept. ASG, Monitor Division, 10707 East 106th St., Indianapolis, IN 46256; (317) 842-7115.



Hand Cranked Shelter Blower

SI Equipment, Ltd., has new hand cranked shelter air blowers made by a leading equipment company for a civil defense contract in the 1960s. These are still in the original boxes they were shipped in after manufacture and each blower will supply 30 cubic feet of air per minute. All you need to do is add flexible pipe and a

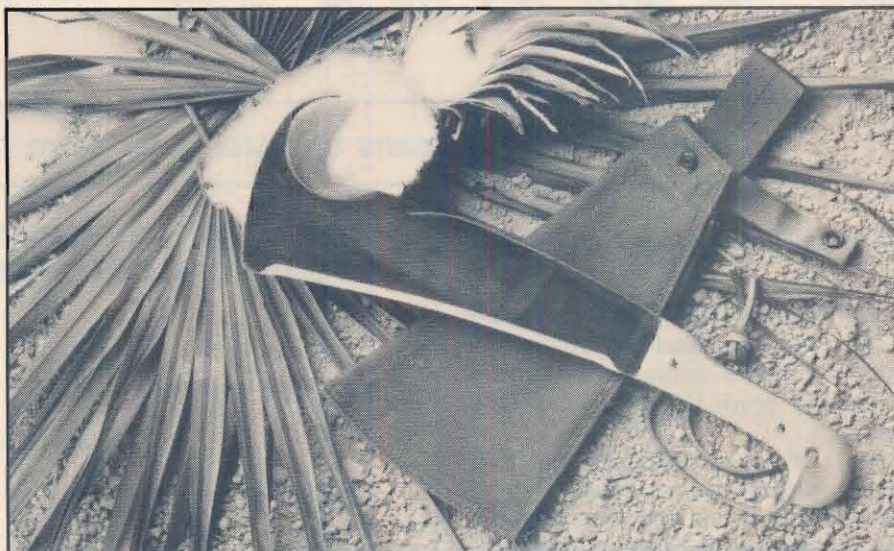
.03 micron filter and you have a system that would otherwise cost up to \$675 and which will turn a sealed room into a short term fallout shelter. Price is \$175 per blower plus \$3.50 S&H from SI Equipment, Ltd., Dept. ASG, 15600 S. Figueroa St., Gardena, CA 90238; (213) 324-8855 or 8859; toll free outside California (800) 533-7415. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. MTh.

5-In-1 Survival Blade

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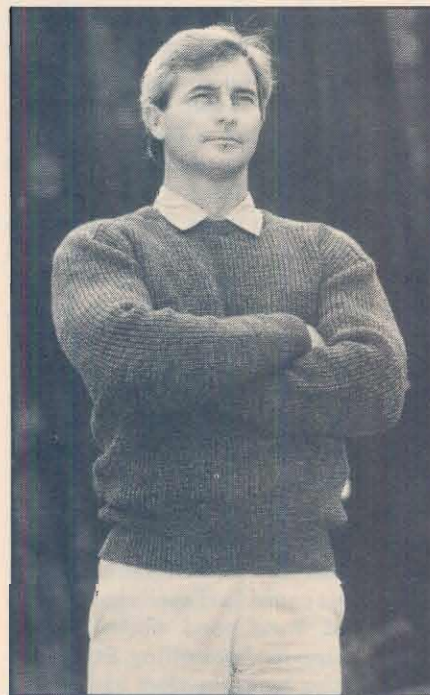
Edge Company 1989 Catalog

Take your pick of 22 Free Knives in the brand new Edge Company Knife catalog — 32 full color pages with the biggest and best knife selection ever available, including 28 new models and six new fully automatic knives. There's also a "Mystery Man" contest that could put an extra \$1,000 in your pocket. For 1989 the Edge Company has charged into hot new territory doing what it does best—offering high quality, unique knives at unbeatable prices. There's something for everyone: front- and side-opening stilettoes and full automatic knife kits, along with a really interesting variety of lock-backs, sheath and boot knives, tantos, butterflies, barlows, bowies, military and survival knives and even swords. The order form is simple and gives the purchaser the option of Edge Express two-day delivery. Edge Company knives are not available in stores, only from The Edge Company, which ships anywhere in the world. All Edge Company knives come with the iron-clad lifetime money-back guarantee. The new catalog is \$3, but is available to **American Survival Guide** readers free. To get yours call The Edge Company Toll-Free Hotline at 1-800-445-1021 and mention that you read about it in *ASG*.



Saddle Shoulder Woolly Pulley

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cuffs will adjust quickly and easily. Extra long body prevents ride-up keeping your backside warm. The sweater is offered to you in precision sizing in inches for a smart, proper fit. Enjoy the Saddle Shoulder Woolly Pulley, a sweater bred for town or country. An ongoing tradition with a new look. For more information on this and many other fine outdoors and survival products, send \$1 to Brigade Quartermasters, Ltd., 1025 Cobb International Blvd., Dept. 51A, Kennesaw, GA 30144-4300; or call (404) 428-1248. ●

Deadly Dinners

Some 9,000 Americans die each year from food poisoning. . .

By Michael Pietrantonio

YOU are what you eat," goes an old saying. Each year in the U.S. an estimated 2 million cases of food poisoning prove the wisdom of that saying.

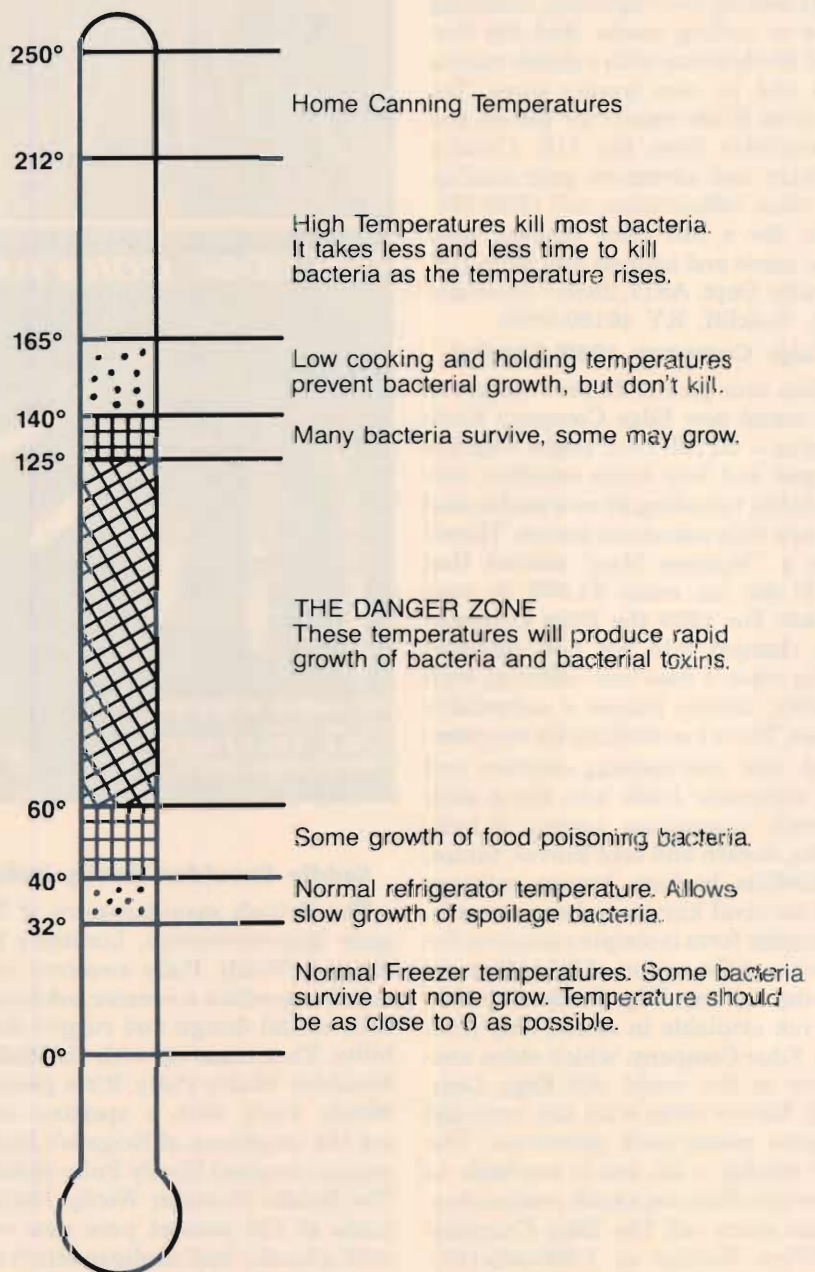
Most of those suffering from food poisoning experience stomach cramps, vomiting, diarrhea and fever for a few days before getting better on their own. They often come through the experience a few pounds lighter, but far wiser (at least concerning food safety) than they were before they got sick. However for some 9,000 Americans each year the consequences of food poisoning prove fatal.

That's the bad news. The good news is that almost all of the 2 million cases of food poisoning in the U.S. each year are preventable. By learning safe food handling techniques, along with proper storage and cooking methods you can all but eliminate the chances that you or your family will be included on the next list of food poisoning statistics.

If you've ever gotten a whiff of rotten meat you'll know first hand the effects bacteria can have on food. Some strains of bacteria cause food spoilage (the rotten meat mentioned above), while others cause food poisoning. Strangely enough the bacteria that cause food spoilage seldom are responsible for food poisoning, while at the same time most food poisoning bacteria do not cause food spoilage or alter the taste, smell, or appearance of most foods. This means that foods which appear perfectly safe to eat, in that there is no visible spoilage, could still be highly contaminated by bacteria which will cause food poisoning. You cannot tell if food is safe to eat simply by looking at it.

Of the thousands of types of bacteria in our environment only about 25 can

HOW FOOD TEMPERATURE AFFECTS FOOD POISONING BACTERIAL GROWTH



cause food poisoning. Of these, about ½ dozen are responsible for almost all of the reported food poisoning cases in the U.S.

Perhaps the best known of the food poisoning bacteria is Salmonella. Salmonella bacteria come in about 2,000 different varieties, most of which can cause food poisoning. However, 70 percent of Salmonella food poisoning cases in the U.S. are caused by only 10 varieties of the Salmonella bacteria.

Salmonella bacteria are commonly present in the intestinal tracts and wastes of livestock, poultry, dogs, cats, rats, and other warm blooded animals. Salmonella bacteria can also be found in some unlikely places. For example the small green pet turtles which many of us owned when we were young, were found to be the cause of Salmonella infections in children so frequently that their commercial distribution was halted by the Federal government in 1975. Outbreaks of Salmonella poisonings have also been seen in marijuana smokers. The cause of these outbreaks is often traced back to the pot grower or seller who will frequently add manure (which can contain Salmonella bacteria) to the pot in order to increase the weight of a shipment.

Food poisoning caused by Salmonella usually results in flu-like symptoms such as diarrhea, stomach pains, chills, and fever. Generally the first symptom is stomach pains which usually occurs 6 to 48 hours after eating Salmonella-infected foods. Most people get over the symptoms and feel better within three to five days. However for the very young, the elderly, and people whose systems have been weakened by other diseases, Salmonella infection can be deadly. While reported Salmonella cases in the U.S. number 40,000 a year including about 75 fatalities, experts believe that there are actually from 400,000 to 4 million such infections and that the death toll may be as high as 500 per year.

The leading cause of food poisoning cases in the U.S. each year is the bac-



Mayonnaise is often thought of as a food poisoning villain. Actually the ingredients in mayonnaise tend to retard the growth of food poisoning bacteria. What has been added to the mayonnaise, such as chicken, shrimp, etc., is usually responsible for most mayonnaise-related food poisoning cases.

teria known as Staphylococcus aureus. This bacteria travels with us wherever we go. It is found on our hands, in our noses, and in dense concentration at the site of skin infections such as pimples. Most "Staph" food poisoning cases result from food handlers passing the Staph bacteria to the food.

At temperatures of about 100 degrees F., Staph bacteria begin rapidly multiplying and producing toxins which are what actually causes Staph food poisoning. Since the toxins are already present on the food when it is consumed, the food poisoning symptoms they produce generally occur quite soon after ingestion, usually within two to six hours. The symptoms of Staph food poisoning include severe vomiting, diarrhea, and cramps. They generally last for only a day or so before the patient recovers. Staph poisoning is frequently associated with starchy foods, cooked and cured meats, cheeses, custards, and other food products which are often left to stand at room temperature for a few hours before they are eaten.

The "cafeteria germ" is the name often given to the third leading cause of food poisoning. Scientifically known as Clostridium perfringens, this bacteria is found in soil, sewage, and the intestines of man and animals. Outbreaks of food poisoning caused by perfringens are seen frequently where food is left for long periods at warm temperatures — such as are normally found at cafeteria steam tables. Food items such as cooked beef, turkey, gravy, dressings, stews, and casseroles are often implicated in cases of perfringens food poisoning.

Symptoms brought about by perfrin-

gens contamination include abdominal pains, nausea and diarrhea. Vomiting is seldom seen in patients afflicted with perfringens food poisoning. Usually symptoms begin from 8 to 22 hours after eating contaminated food. They can last from 12 to 48 hours. Most patients recover quickly from perfringens food poisoning but some patients, such as those with ulcers, should see a doctor if there is a possibility of perfringens food poisoning.

A less well known but potentially severe problem is posed by a bacteria known as listeria. This bacteria flourishes at refrigerator temperatures and is linked mainly to dairy products — milk, cheese, ice cream, etc. The number of reported cases of listeria poisoning is under 2,000 per year, and of those most people get only mild flu-like symptoms. However this bacteria



Cooked eggs are safe to eat, but they must be cooked thoroughly. Eggs should be boiled for at least seven minutes, poached for at least five minutes or fried on both sides for at least three minutes before eating.

can be deadly. It has been known to trigger meningitis, cause blood infections, and induce miscarriages. It was this bacteria which causes 28 deaths and 20 stillbirths in Los Angeles in 1985, when contaminated Jalisco brand cheese was marketed.

Perhaps the most deadly of the food poisoning bacteria is Clostridium botulinum, known commonly as botulism. Botulinum bacteria and spores (which are basically dormant bacteria) are found naturally in soil and water. Foods at particular risk for botulism contamination are canned vegetables (particularly if home canned), stews, meats, etc. Since botulism spores from the soil could easily contaminate vegetables, and since botulism needs an environment with little or no air to flourish, canned products are ideally suited to its growth.

Symptoms of botulism poisoning will usually appear 12 to 48 hours after eating contaminated food. Unlike the other food poisons, botulism attacks the nervous system. Initially fatigue, headache and dizziness are the first symptoms to appear. These are followed by double vision, trouble swallowing, and



Cans that are dented or puffed up could contain deadly botulism bacteria. Discard all such cans.

Deadly Dinners

difficulty breathing. Death is usually caused by paralysis of the respiratory center, that is, the patient can no longer breathe on his own and dies of suffocation. There is an anti-toxin available which has saved lives of patients suffering botulism poisoning. Should you note the symptoms of botulism poisoning in yourself or anyone else, get to a hospital immediately.

Avoiding botulism requires common sense use of canned goods. Any canned food, particularly home canned, that looks suspicious should be discarded. This includes dented cans, swollen cans, jars with loose lids or cracks in them, etc. If the liquid in the can or jar is milky where it should be clear, do not use the product. **DO NOT TASTE** even a tiny bit of food from any suspected product. Botulism is highly toxic and even a tiny amount can be deadly.

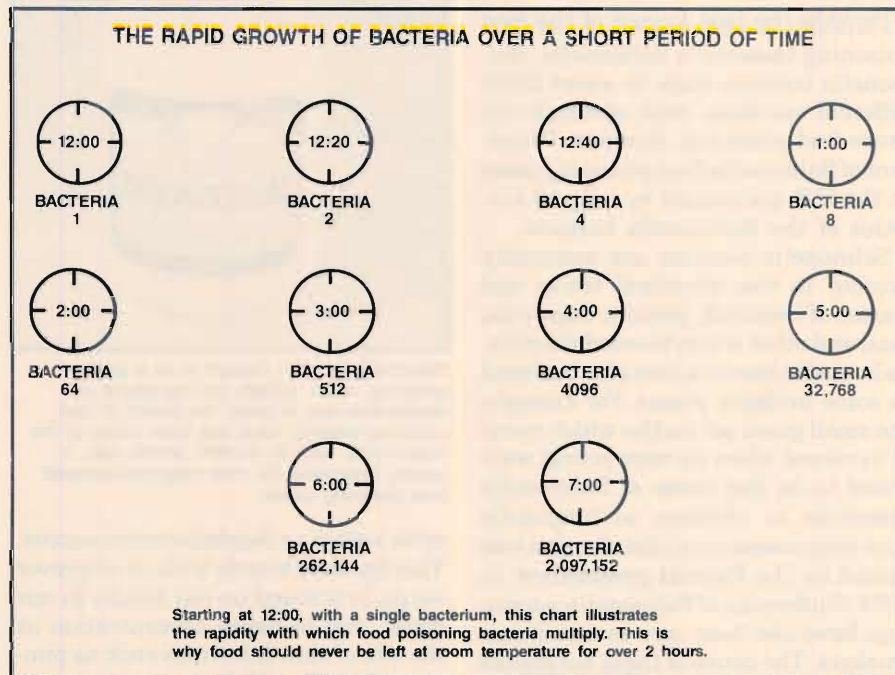
Preventing Food Poisoning — The U.S. government, through the Department of Agriculture and its Food Safety and Inspection Service, seeks to assure U.S. consumers a safe and wholesome food supply. There are more than 7,000 meat and poultry packing and processing plants in the U.S. At each one federal inspectors check the safety and quality of the product during all phases of its processing. Over many years they have achieved an admirable record in maintaining the safety of our food supply.

Once a food product reaches your home however it is up to you to insure that it is handled in a safe manner and prepared properly. Almost all of the food poisoning cases in the U.S. each year are caused in the home by improper handling of food during its preparation, cooking, or storage.

Safe food handling and cooking techniques involve controlling the bacteria which cause food poisoning. This is done in two ways. First by regulating the temperatures at which food is cooked and stored and second, by preventing cross contamination of one food to another through clean and careful food handling techniques.

Imagine a thermometer that reads from 0 to 250 degrees F. Starting at 0 and moving upward let's look at the effects of various temperatures on food poisoning bacteria.

Between 0 and 32 degrees F. some bacteria will survive, but none will



grow. The closer to 0 the fewer bacteria that will survive.

At normal refrigerator temperatures of from 32 to 40 degrees some spoilage bacteria (but none of the food poisoning varieties) will multiply, but at a very reduced rate.

From 40 to 60 degrees is where some food poisoning bacteria can begin to grow. Sixty to 125 degrees — the danger zone. This is the temperature range where most problems occur. Food poisoning bacteria thrive in these temperatures, multiplying rapidly and producing toxins. Unfortunately for us, "room temperature" also falls within this "paradise" range for bacteria. Whether you allow cold food to warm up, or hot food to cool down to this temperature range you are providing an ideal breeding ground for the bacteria which cause food poisoning. To avoid this never let food sit at room temperature for more than an hour or two.

Temperatures between 125 and 140 degrees F. will not kill most bacteria. Some of the more hardy types can even continue to grow at these temperatures.

Between 140 and 165 degrees the growth of food poisoning bacteria is stopped, however most of the bacteria will continue to live.

From 165 degrees to the boiling point of 212 degrees is where dangerous bacteria begin to be killed by temperature. At the higher end of this range, food poisoning bacteria die off rapidly.

Two hundred twelve to 250 degrees F. — These temperatures are used in the home canning process to assure that all food poisoning bacteria have been killed. Canning instructions, whether for water bath or pressure canning, must be followed regarding time and temperature to assure safety in the home canned food.

Should it be necessary to delay serving just-cooked food, that food should be held at temperatures of between 140 and 165 degrees, with the higher end of this temperature range preferred for safety.

Practical steps to avoid food poisoning can also be taken at the other end of the temperature scale.

A good first step is to make sure that your refrigerator is keeping your food cold enough for safety. Refrigerators should maintain temperatures of between 32 to 40 degrees F. in the main compartment, and 0 degrees in the freezer.

Since bacteria multiply as temperature rises it makes sense to do your food shopping as the last stop of the day so that the refrigerated foods can be gotten home as quickly as possible. In fact while food shopping try to pick up refrigerated products last so that they don't have time to warm up in the shopping cart.

When thawing frozen foods the safest method is to transfer the food from the freezer to the main refrigerator compartment the night before you intend

to use it.

After cooking, do not let food cool on the counter. Put the unused portions into the refrigerator as soon as possible. Also when storing leftovers divide them into small portions. Smaller portions will cool more quickly than will larger ones.

Cross Contamination — Bacteria which cause food poisoning can remain alive and active in many areas of the kitchen other than the food from which they came. Towels and cloths used to wipe up spills, dry your hands, or perhaps cover food, can harbor and spread food poisoning bacteria from one food to another.

A dish or bowl that was used to hold or mix uncooked meat or poultry should always be thoroughly washed before using it again even if it is to be used to hold the same food once it is cooked. This will prevent the recontamination of the cooked food.

Kitchen implements such as knives, spoons, cutting boards, etc., can all harbor and spread food poisoning bacteria. They must all be thoroughly washed after each step in the food preparation process. A knife that was used to cut raw chicken and not thoroughly washed before it is used to cut the salad lettuce, for instance, could easily pass food poisoning bacteria from the chicken to the salad. Many food safety experts suggest the use of a plastic or acrylic cutting board for cutting raw meat or poultry. Wooden cutting boards are porous and they may allow bacteria to survive even a thorough washing.

Cleanliness and frequent washing of all utensils and surfaces is the surest way to prevent cross contamination. Wash all utensils and surfaces in hot soapy water between each step of food preparation. Wash your hands often while preparing food and of course both before you start and after you finish handling food.

Recently the Northeast has been suffering from outbreaks of Salmonella food poisoning which have been traced to contaminated eggs.

In the past it was thought eggs with undamaged shells were entirely safe to eat. However many of the recent Northeast food poisoning cases seem to involve eggs which were contaminated with the Salmonella bacteria while they were forming within the hen.

Because of this many food safety experts are suggesting that people avoid eating uncooked or slightly cook-

ed eggs or homemade dishes which call for using non-cooked eggs. These would include items like eggnog, Caesar salad, hollandaise sauce, homemade mayonnaise, etc.

Health officials emphasize that cooked eggs are safe to eat — if they are thoroughly cooked. That means that eggs should be boiled for at least seven minutes, poached for at least five minutes, or fried ON BOTH SIDES for at least three minutes per side.

Common picnic and barbecue foods can also present special problems in safe handling. Raw chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, and sandwich meats should ALWAYS be transported to the picnic area in a cooler containing plenty of ice or cold packs. Hamburger should be cooked thoroughly until it is brown throughout. Rare burger lovers are tempting fate according to food safety experts. Chicken should be cooked until all the juices running from it are completely white, and until there is no pink coloring left at the bone.

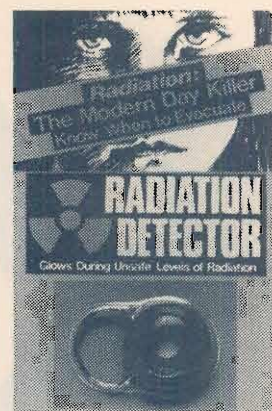
Mayonnaise is thought by many to be particularly prone to contamination by food poisoning bacteria. Actually mayonnaise contains salt and lemon juice, both of which slow down bacterial growth. When mayonnaise is linked to cases of food poisoning it is usually because of what has been mixed in with the mayonnaise. Products like chicken, shrimp, eggs, and other protein-rich foods usually bring the contamination to the mayonnaise, not the other way around.

Following the guidelines listed in this article regarding food handling, preparation, and storage, should help to insure that the food you eat will not make you sick.

Should you need more information on any of the topics mentioned here, or if you have specific questions concerning food safety, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has a hotline which should be able to help. The "Meat and Poultry Hotline" can be reached at 1-800-535-4555 (in Wash. D.C. call 447-3333) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In addition, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the Department of Agriculture offers a number of pamphlets and publications (most for free) concerning food safety. For a listing of currently available booklets you can call the FSIS at 202-477-9351, or write to them at: FSIS publications office, Room 1165-South, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. ●

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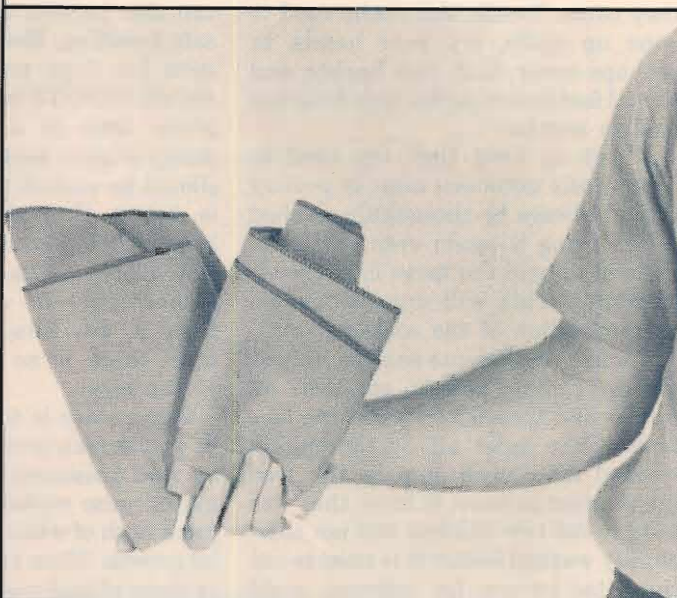
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Staff Report

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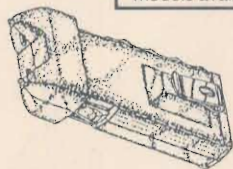
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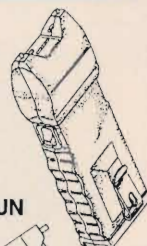


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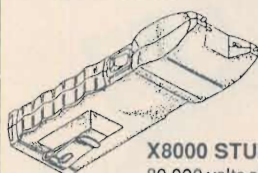
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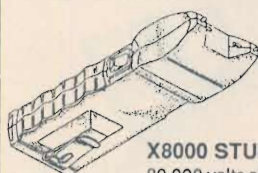
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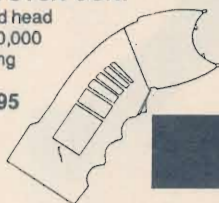


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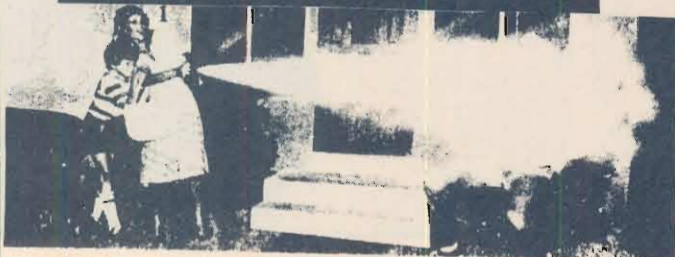


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Retador Survival Kit

Muela Knives:

Designed to be used by Spanish helicopter personnel. . .

Staff Evaluation

MUELA Knives, located in Ciudad Real, Spain, are recognized worldwide for their quality and style. Muela has recently designed a survival tool kit for use by Spanish helicopter pilots that incorporates several tools into one easily stowed kit weighing three pounds seven ounces.

The Retador (which means "challenger" in Spanish) is basically a spade that can be converted into an ax, a saw, an ice pick, a mountain knife, a spear or even a paddle for a canoe. A spring-loaded detent in the handle makes the conversion possible. The steel used for the knives, pick and ax head is molybdenum-vanadium stainless steel with a Rockwell hardness of 56-58. The canvas case has several pockets that hold the different tool tips and also other survival items such as nylon rope, skinning knife, signal mirror, and suture kit. The suture kit is enclosed in a plastic bag that holds tiny items like: tweezers, band-aids, curved needle and thread, scalpel, bottle/can opener, fish hooks, matches and safety pins.

We took the Retador on a recent trip to the snow covered San Bernardino Mountains in California. Once up in the snow we immediately used the spade to help get a truck unstuck from a snow bank. Digging into the hard pack snow was no problem with the Retador. When trying to climb a steep ridge for a possible photo scene, the ice pick was very useful on icy areas. The pick dug into the frozen ground and offered a comforting anchor. On a fallen pine tree we tried the saw and ax head. The saw was sharp and easily cut through the hard, weathered pine. The ax implement fits pretty snugly on



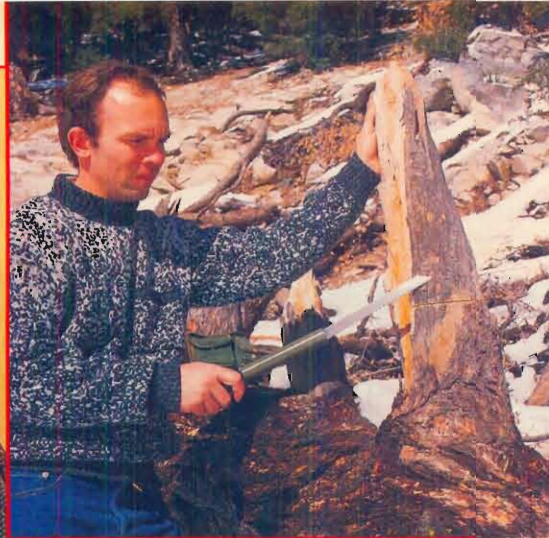
the handle and is sturdy enough to do some heavy duty chopping.

The handle on the Retador can be lengthened to make a spear by doing a little whittling on a one-inch diameter sapling. With the cap removed from the bottom of the handle, twist the sapling into the handle and then trim off any branches. With the mountain knife in place you'll have a handy

spear. Attach the spade and you have an emergency paddle.

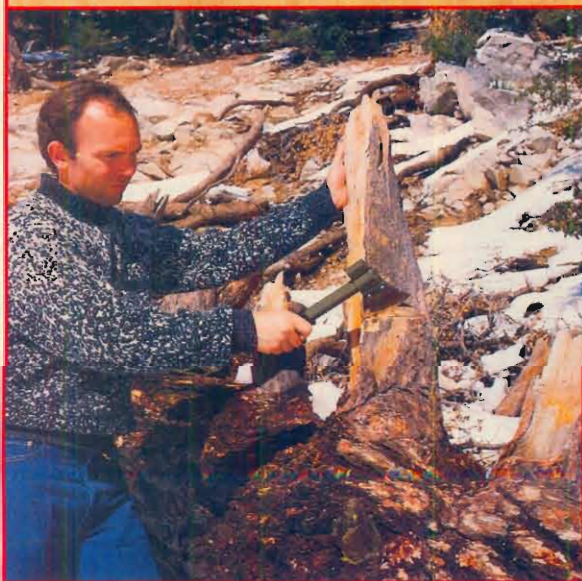
The Retador survival kit is not only a good idea for helicopter pilots, it makes a good addition to an auto emergency kit, a wilderness cabin, or a backpack. Suggested retail is \$125. For more information write: C.A.S. Iberia, Inc., Jo-Ann Road, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533; (914) 226-1441. ●

The Retador survival tool set stored in its green canvas case.



The Retador saw was able to cut through this pine branch with little effort. Both the saw and the mountain knife are stored in the handle when not in use.

The ax proved to be an efficient chopping tool.



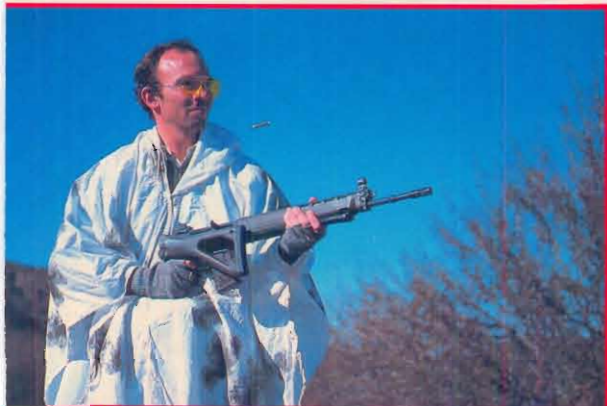
The ice pick helped climbers grip an icy slope and was a real comfort in an otherwise dangerous situation.



Made in Switzerland:

SIG SG 550 SP RIFLE

The SIG SG 550 SP is fired with stock extended, stock folded and bipod extended.



*A semiautomatic version of the new
Swiss military weapon...*



By Jim Benson

THE new Sturmgewehr 90 military rifle in 5.56 x 45 mm caliber (.223 Remington) is replacing the Sturmgewehr 57 assault rifle (7.5x55.4 mm caliber) as standard issue to Swiss troops.

Approximately 600,000 of these select-fire weapons will be built and issued to Swiss troops between 1985 and 2005 and this will be the individual soldier's rifle for the rest of his life. Switzerland relies on a force of about 580,000 reservists to augment its regular ground military forces of about 18,500 troops. Reservists keep their weapons and gear in their homes

so they can mobilize quickly.

Manufactured by Schweizerische Industrie Gesellschaft (SIG) in Switzerland, The Sturmgewehr 90 is also known as the SG 550, and there is a short-barrel version called the SG 551. SIG also makes semiautomatic versions of these rifles, designated the SG 550 SP and SG 551 SP. These were introduced in the United States at the 1988 SHOT (Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade) Show and have been available on the U.S. market for more than

a year now.

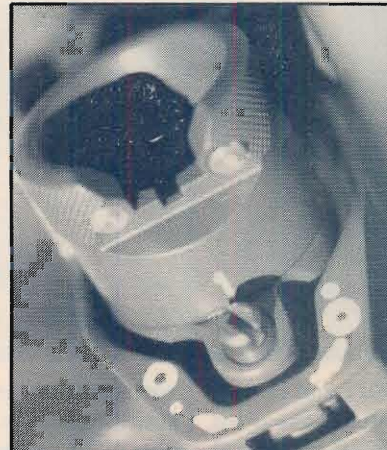
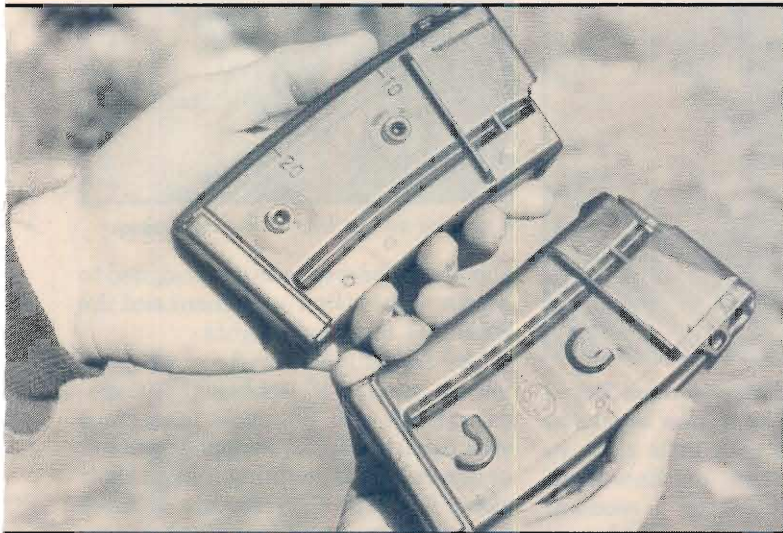
The SG 550 SP and SG 551 SP rifles are imported to the U.S. by SIGARMS Inc. of Herndon, Virginia. We were able to borrow a new SG 550 SP for evaluation from Beach Cities Armoury (204 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266; 213-374-2227). Beach Cities has been selling the 550 SP and the 551 SP to retail customers. Additionally, Beach Cities is selling new NATO specification Canadian 5.56 mm ammunition in 100-round bandoleers

(10 10-round strippers in each bandoleer). This ammunition is made by the Canadian firm of IVI Dominion Industries and is designated C77, which is equivalent to the new U.S. M855 or Belgian SS109 5.56 mm round. The Canadian ammo has 63-grain bullets with steel penetration core and costs about 25 cents per round. It's available in 100-round bandoleers, in sealed .50 caliber ammo cans of 600 rounds each or by the case of two cans (1,200 rounds total). Cases are \$300 each.

Our rifle was the SG 550-2 SP which

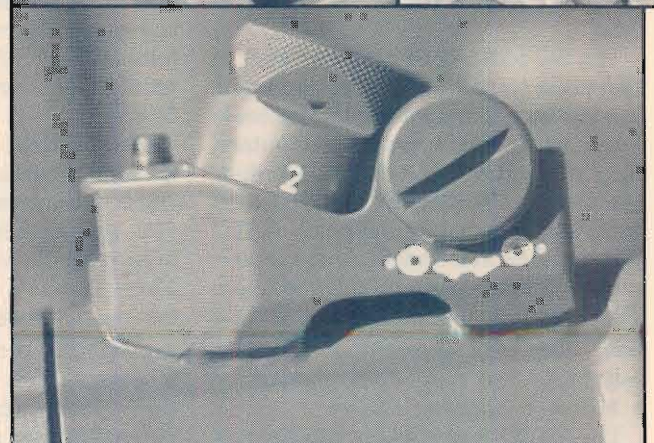


Canadian C77 5.56 mm ammunition comes in bandoleers of 100 rounds each (10 10-round strippers per bandoleer) which are packed six bandoleers to a can. The SIG 550/551 rifles come with a magazine loading tool for use with the strippers.

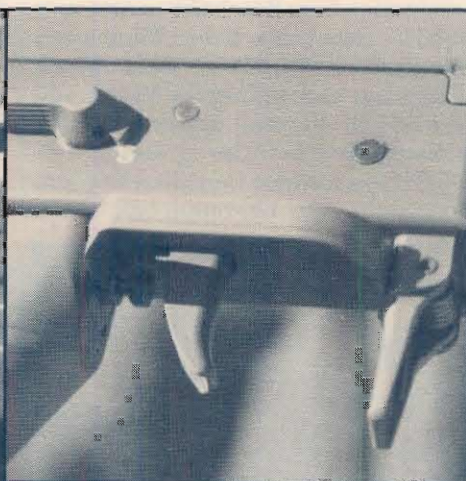


Magazines can be used individually or snapped together for higher capacity.

Front sight is a post with protective tunnel and flip-up tritium night sight post. Rear sight is a diopter drum with settings for 100, 200, 300 and 400 meters. There is also a red "3" above the 400-meter setting for match shooting at 300 yards. Note tritium night sight dots above the white "1" (100-meter) setting and windage and elevation adjustment screws.

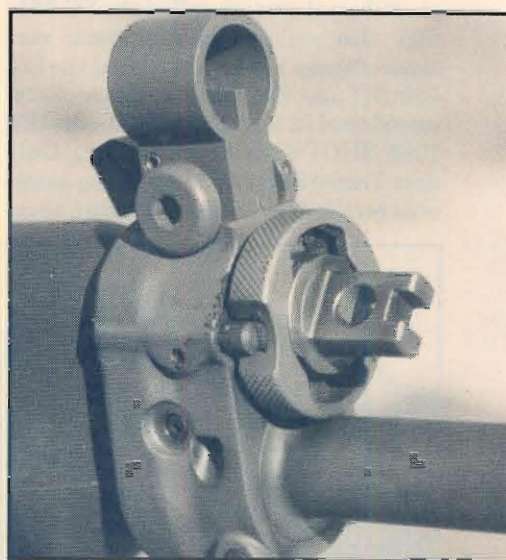


SIG SG 550 SP Rifle



The trigger guard may be turned to either side so the trigger can be pressed using heavy gloves or mittens in cold weather.

Shooters found the SG 550 SP very pleasant to shoot, with mild recoil, smooth functioning and excellent accuracy.



The gas valve, here set to allow a larger volume of gas to act on the gas piston, such as in the event of fouling or ice-up. For normal firing, the valve setting is turned slightly counter clockwise.



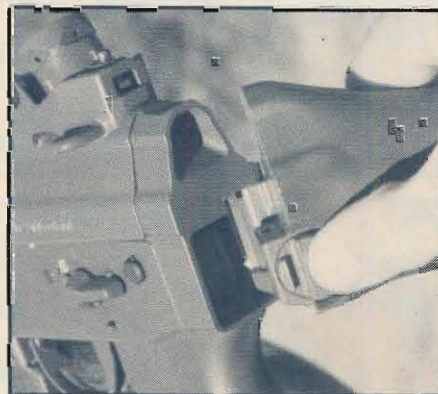
has a 7-in-1 (R.H.) barrel twist for the new NATO ammunition. There is an SG 550-1 with a 1-in-10 (R.H.) barrel twist.

The SG 550/551 SP rifles as well as the same Canadian C77 ammo made in 1985 by IVI are available wholesale from Golden State Arms Distributors, Inc., 205 South Kuhn Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266; (213) 374-4086 or 6184. These new rifles meet NATO test specifications and all other requirements imposed for an infantry weapon. They are gas operated with rotating bolt. They offer exceptional accuracy, reliability and ruggedness needed for a military infantry weapon.

The 550 SP has a heavy fixed barrel

with chamber and bore hammer forged simultaneously. The trigger breaks at about 6.6 pounds with little slack in the pull. There is an on-the-weapon folding bipod fitted into a recessed handguard (none on the short-barrel 551 SP).

The excellent rear diopter drum battle sight mounted on the receiver housing is calibrated for 100, 200, 300 and 400 meter distances and is easily adjustable for windage and elevation. There is also a red 300-meter setting for match shooting. The front sight is a post with protective tunnel. There is also a front flip-up tritium night sight post and tritium dots on the 100-meter rear diopter sight for night

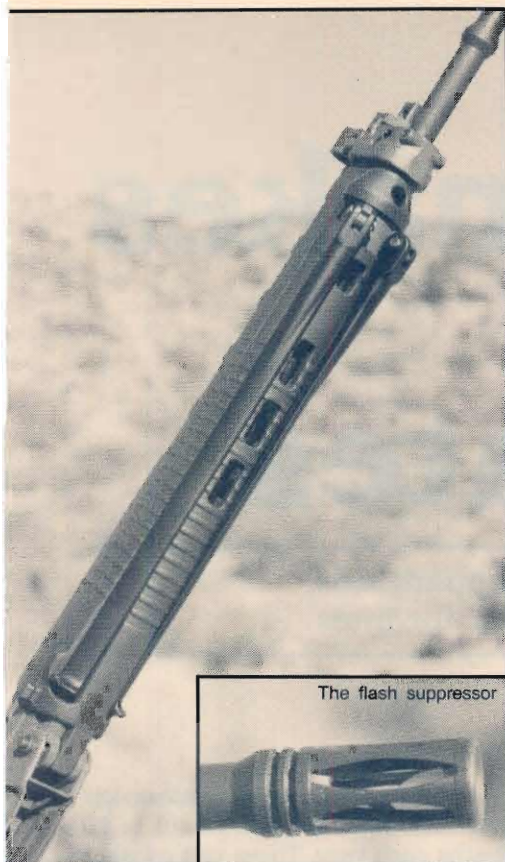


Depressing the butt catch to fold the buttstock.

shooting. The weapons are designed to accept night vision equipment and the STANAG telescopic sights.

The SG 550/551 family of weapons uses a system of lightweight, transparent 20- and 30-round magazines which can be rapidly snapped together or separated via coupling lugs on their sides. Forty to sixty rounds or more can easily be carried in multiple magazines attached to the rifle. And this particular layout provides a low profile for the user in sighting the rifle.

All the 550/551 rifles can be operated with one hand by either right or left handed shooters since the safety/fire switch is located on both sides of the weapon. All these rifles also have side-folding buttstocks for use in close-quarters combat and firing from vehicles. Buttstock and full-length handguard are made of high-grade synthetic



Bipod folded against the handguard.

material for ruggedness and weather-proof reliability. Field stripping for maintenance and reassembly are simple, requiring no tools and can be accomplished in a few moments.

Test Firing — We took our test 550 SP to an outdoor shooting area in the nearby San Gabriel Mountains with the Canadian C77 and some Chinese non-corrosive (Norinco) .223 ammunition and put the rifle through its paces, firing nearly 200 rounds of both types of ammunition in it.

Curiously, the rifle functioned flawlessly except for one stove-pipe jam with the Canadian ammo which we could not attribute a cause to. In any event, once the casing was removed from the ejection port where it was lodged, firing was resumed and no further difficulties were experienced.

We elected not to set up targets for precision accuracy testing, choosing instead to fire the rifle from the shoulder and hip, the way we would anticipate it being used in a combat situation. We had no trouble hitting bottles and cans set up approximately 100 yards away with aimed firing from the shoulder. The SG 550 is a very smooth functioning firearm and felt recoil was even more moderate than we are used

to experiencing with 5.56 mm caliber rifles.

The SG 550 SP is an expensive piece of firepower to be sure, but you are paying for a state-of-the-art weapon made with the finest materials, proven design and the high quality and craftsmanship SIGARMS and the Swiss are known for the world-over. The people at SIG can be proud of another outstanding firearm that will surely be adopted by military and law enforcement personnel in other countries in the years to come. ●

SIG SG 550-2 SP Rifle: Tech Specs

Caliber	5.56 x 45 mm NATO (.223 Rem.)
Action/operation	semiauto/gas (rotating bolt)
Lengths:	
Overall	39.29 inches
With folded butt	30.39 inches
Barrel	20.78 inches
Number of grooves	6
Rifling	right, 7 inches
Sights	front post, rear diopter, adjustable; front & rear tritium for night shooting
Sight radius	21.26 inches
Weights:	
With empty 20-rd mag	9.03 pounds
With loaded 20-rd mag	11.99 pounds
With loaded 30-rd mag	16.75 pounds
Price, suggested retail	\$2,000
Importer	SIGARMS, Inc., Dept. ASG, 470 Spring Park Place, Herndon, VA 22070; (703) 481-6660

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Four Types:

Poisonous Snakes of the United States

Descriptions and ranges of rattlesnakes, copperheads, water moccasins and coral snakes and first aid for bites. . .

By Jim Benson

WITH the exception of one type of poisonous sea snake that is sometimes encountered in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of southern California, the danger of venomous snakebite in the United States comes from exposure to four types of land- or fresh-water dwelling serpents.

There are many types of snakes in the U.S., all of which are very beneficial environmentally, and only a few are poisonous to humans. Nevertheless, an estimate 50,000 people are bitten each year in this country and some 8,000 of those bites involve poisonous snakes.

While few of these poisonous snakebites are fatal (a number of deaths from snakebite are recorded each year in this country), crippling injuries are frequently incurred by the victims, and it's wise to take precautions to avoid being bitten. If you or someone you are with is bitten by a poisonous snake, you should know what first aid to administer to the victim before professional medical care can be obtained. This can save lives, spare limbs and avoid other debilitating injuries.

The rattlesnake, copperhead moccasin, cottonmouth or water moccasin and the coral snake are the four types of venomous serpents in the U.S.

The first three snakes are known as "pit vipers" because of the small pit located in front of each eye which is heat sensitive and enables these snakes to hunt and "see" in darkness by sensing infrared radiation from their prey.

Other characteristics common to pit vipers are the hollow and extremely sharp needle-like fangs in the mouth through which the snake injects venom into its victim and elliptical rather than round pupils in the eyes.

The poison or venom of the rattlesnakes, copperheads and water moccasins are very similar and cause destruction of the blood and tissues of the victim's body after injection. While the venom of the pit vipers is hemotoxic (attacking and destroying red blood cells), the venom of the coral snakes, (of the family Elapidae) is neurotoxic (acting on the nervous system) and almost purely paralytic in its action. In contrast to the pit vipers (known as the crotalids because they are members of the family Crotalidae), the venom of the coral snakes causes very little tissue damage at the site of the bite and little or no swelling.

The coral snake has a small head and mouth and its fangs are small and not hollow. It also has round eye pupils. As it bites its victims with a chewing action of its mouth, venom runs down the fangs from poison sacs and enters the wound. This venom is quite deadly if enough of it is injected and death usually occurs as a result of the victim suffocating due to the paralysis of the respiratory system.

There are many types of rattlesnake in the U.S. and they are found in all parts of North America. The eastern and western diamondback rattlesnakes of the southern states are the largest

and most dangerous of all rattlesnakes and their bites account for 10 to 20 deaths each year. These rattlesnakes can be eight feet or more in length and their fangs can be more than an inch long. They can inject up to 1.5 grams (dry weight) of venom two inches deep in the tissues of their victims. Rattlesnakes have chunky bodies, large heads and distinctive rattles on the ends of their tails. Their coloring is usually varying shades of brown or green.

Copperheads are found in the eastern, northeastern and southern parts of the country, ranging from Massachusetts south to Florida and west to parts of Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Averaging two to three feet in length, they have a stout body colored buff or orange-brown with rich brown bands and a copper-red head. Copperhead bites are rarely fatal but severe pain and swelling of the stricken area frequently occur and loss of tissue and extremities (toes, fingers) can occur in people who do not receive prompt and effective medical treatment.

The cottonmouth (so called because the inside of its mouth is white) or water moccasin averages two to four feet in length and has a thick brown or brownish-olive colored body, sometimes blotched, and a yellowish, also blotched, belly. It is aquatic and found in and near by fresh water, primarily in the southern states from Virginia to Florida and west to parts of



Western Diamondback Rattlesnake (Jonathan Hanson).



Copperhead (Zoological Society of San Diego).

Poisonous Snakes of the United States



Arizona Coral Snake (Zoological Society of San Diego).



Water Moccasin (Zoological Society of San Diego).

Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Bites of these snakes resemble those of the copperheads but ecchymosis (passing of blood out of its proper place and into surrounding tissues) is often more prominent and loss of fat and skin is more extensive. The water moccasin can inject its venom into joints as well as fat and muscle.

Related to the cobras, coral snakes can be up to three feet long and are slender, with strikingly colored bands of black and red separated by bands of yellow or white. There are other non-poisonous snakes that look like coral snakes, but it's best to leave any of these brightly colored snakes alone if they are encountered. Coral snakes range from extreme southeastern Virginia south through Florida and west to Texas, parts of Oklahoma and Arkansas and parts of south Arizona and New Mexico. Coral snakes do not strike. Instead they bite, and once they have closed their jaws on their victims they chew with first one side of their mouths and then the other, sometimes clinging on with such tenacity that they are removed only with difficulty. With the small head and fangs, there is little venom available for injection and absorption is slow. It can usually be removed immediately after the bite by a small circular excision of the skin and underlying fat.

Snakebite First Aid — In doing research for this article I found little more than general recommendations for first aid for snakebite victims and even then there was conflicting information on just what procedures are most effective. Fortunately, I came across the work of Dr. Thomas G. Glass, Jr. of San Antonio, Texas. All four types of poisonous snakes are found in south Texas and Dr. Glass has treated more than 600 snakebite victims over more than a quarter century of practice there.

Since 1966, Dr. Glass has treated 175 victims of Western Diamondback Rattlesnake bite and 35 victims of copperhead and water moccasin bites. The author of two books, video tapes and many articles on care of snakebite victims for laymen and professional medical practitioners, Dr. Glass has developed surgical and medical treatment techniques for which he is known the world over.

A clinical professor of surgery at the University of Texas Medical School, Glass practices general surgery in San Antonio and has lectured all over the U.S. on snakebite treatment. His work

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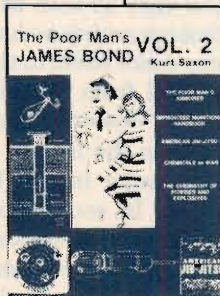
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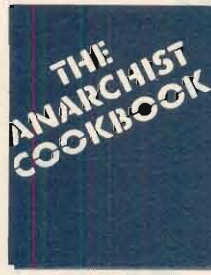
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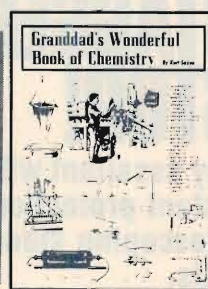
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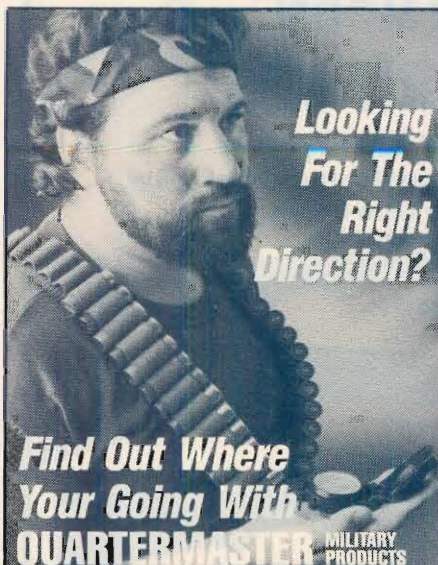


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Poisonous Snakes of the United States

includes *Management of Poisonous Snakebite*, a book for medical professionals, the booklet *Snakebite First Aid*, for the layman, and the video tapes *Snakebite First Aid* (33 minutes) and *Management of Poisonous Snakebite* (84 minutes).

The books and video tapes are available from Glass Publishing Company, 8711 Village Drive, #105, San Antonio, TX 78217; telephone (512) 653-9555. The books and tapes are highly recommended for anyone seriously interested in the subject. The following recommendations for first aid for snakebite were drawn from these materials.

"In the southern United States from California to Florida there are some very large and lethal snakes," notes Glass. "These snakes can cause death and crippling from their bites."

First aid for snakebite, he notes, is care before professional medical treatment. "The most important thing to do above all else is to get the victim to medical care. The sooner you get the victim to medical care the less crippling and the less likely that the victim will die."

The principles of snakebite first aid are as follows: "Get the victim to medical care as soon as possible in a safe fashion and *do no harm* . . . Don't cause any more harm to the victim than was caused from the bite."

The Western Diamondback Rattlesnake is the largest and most dangerous snake in the U.S., according to Glass. In south Texas, 85 percent of the poisonous snakebites are from this snake, 14 percent from copperheads and 2 percent from coral snakes and water moccasins. Crippling is common in Western Diamondback Rattlesnake bites if proper and prompt treatment is not obtained. Later, I will outline emergency treatment for victims who for whatever reason are unlikely to receive prompt, effective medical attention, such as in the case of someone bitten severely in a remote wilderness setting.

Pit viper venom is warmed by the body's temperature and destroys the local small blood vessels, causing hemorrhage under the skin at the site of the bite. Fat or muscle is quickly destroyed and venom spreads throughout the tissues.

The venom and destroyed tissues are

absorbed by the remaining nearby blood vessels and are carried to the heart, lungs, brain, kidneys and liver, causing toxic symptoms. The clotting ability of the blood is destroyed by the venom within one hour after the bite in 20 percent of the victims of Western Diamondback Rattlesnake bites.

When no venom is injected, as sometimes happens, there are no local signs of the bite except for fang marks. But there are also usually no initial signs of the bite except fang marks if the venom is injected deep into the tissues.

In cases where the blood's ability to clot is affected by the venom there is a danger of making cuts for suction. Additionally, it is difficult or impossible to remove venom by suction when it has been injected deep into the tissues. Unless performed correctly and effectively immediately after the bite and in cases where there is venom near the surface of the skin, cuts and suction can be as damaging as the bite. The cut should be parallel to the long axis of the limb affected. Suction using the mouth is dangerous if you have tooth decay or open sores in the mouth. The modern snakebite kits with syringes and different sized suction cups that can be connected to the syringe, such as the kit produced by Sawyer, are effective and preferred to mouth suction.

Constricting Bands, Ice — Dr. Glass recommends that constricting band be applied *on each side* of the bite, since venom spreads in all directions from the bite site and not just toward the heart. In some cases, such as a bite on a finger, only one constricting band would be necessary.

He also recommends that some type of cooling, such as common ice or instant cold packs if they are available, be placed over the bitten area. Cold packs will have to be replaced every 15 minutes or so because they lose their cooling effects. Do not use the potentially dangerous ethyl chloride or other harmful chemicals for cooling. And do not apply the constricting bands too tightly which will cut off circulation and kill the tissues, requiring amputation.

"I have determined that cooling and bands are safe and effective when used for less than three or four hours for

(Continued on page 66)

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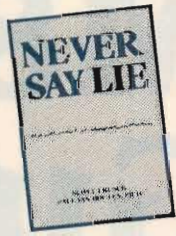
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Remington:

M870 Riot Gun

Police and military shotgun with folding stock. . .

By Bud Lang

WHEN shotguns first came into existence, most featured super-long barrels to aid in carrying shot out to long ranges. This was something of a necessity if the black powder charges of the day were going to bring home game for the table. We don't know when the first shotgun was used in combat on the other side of the pond, but if they were anything like the stagecoach guns over here, they featured ultra-short barrels.

Because shot, rock salt, or any other projectile stuffed down the throat of a short-barreled shotgun tended to cover a broad area, the slang expression "scattergun" was a natural. While fewer projectiles than normal might contact any one target, the opportunity to avoid a total miss was negated. Furthermore, one just might hit more than one target with a single shot where a bunch of thugs were on your case.

From the black powder burning stagecoach guns, we find development of short-barreled "cartridge" guns for law enforcement use developed into a "must" situation, especially after the criminal element opted for full auto guns.

While most "short" shotguns are found in police armories, there's certainly no reason why law abiding civilians desiring to preserve their own life and that of their loved ones should be denied the opportunity to own one. A number of companies are offering pistol grip stocks and in some instances folding stocks for various shotguns, thus allowing the owner to convert his full-stocked scattergun over to a shortie.

I would say the prime reason one would want a pistol grip or folding stock on a shotgun is added maneuverability in close quarters, such as in

the home, place of business or in a vehicle. Because these guns are usually brought into action where the target range is quite close, most feature short barrels, too. Whereas sporting guns carry barrels out to 30 inches or more, most police-type shotguns carry barrels between 18 and 20 inches.

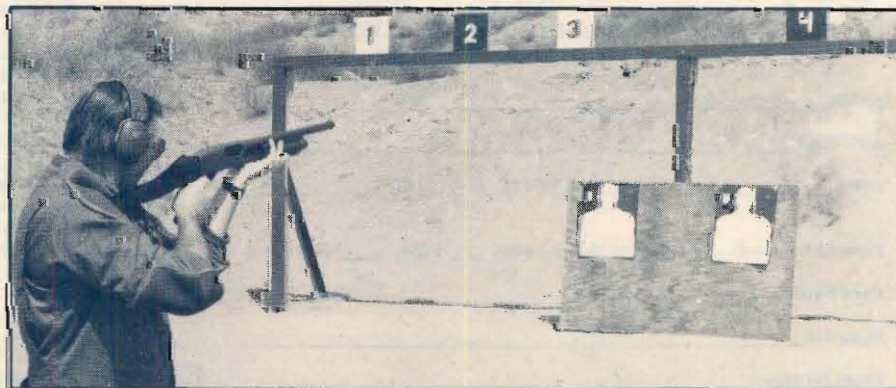
Next to full auto guns, I feel it is safe to say that shotguns are the most intimidating guns in the world. It's not so much that looking down the yawning bore of a scattergun is frightening, but the thought of getting cut down by multiple hits of one-ounce lead slugs or maybe 10 000 Buck lead balls (of .36-inch diameter, this is the equi-



During hip shooting tests, Howard Reed felt the recoil of the 12 gauge magnum slugs when he held the gun too close to his body. It must be positioned out front as illustrated to be effective and comfortable to shoot.



When shooting the steel-stocked Remington M870P with the stock extended, one must be wary about getting zapped in the cheek.



Firing at silhouette targets from 10 yards. Recoil is present when shooting slugs and Buck shot, but it's not too bad.

valent of getting hit by 10 .38 caliber slugs at one time where a three-inch magnum shell is employed).

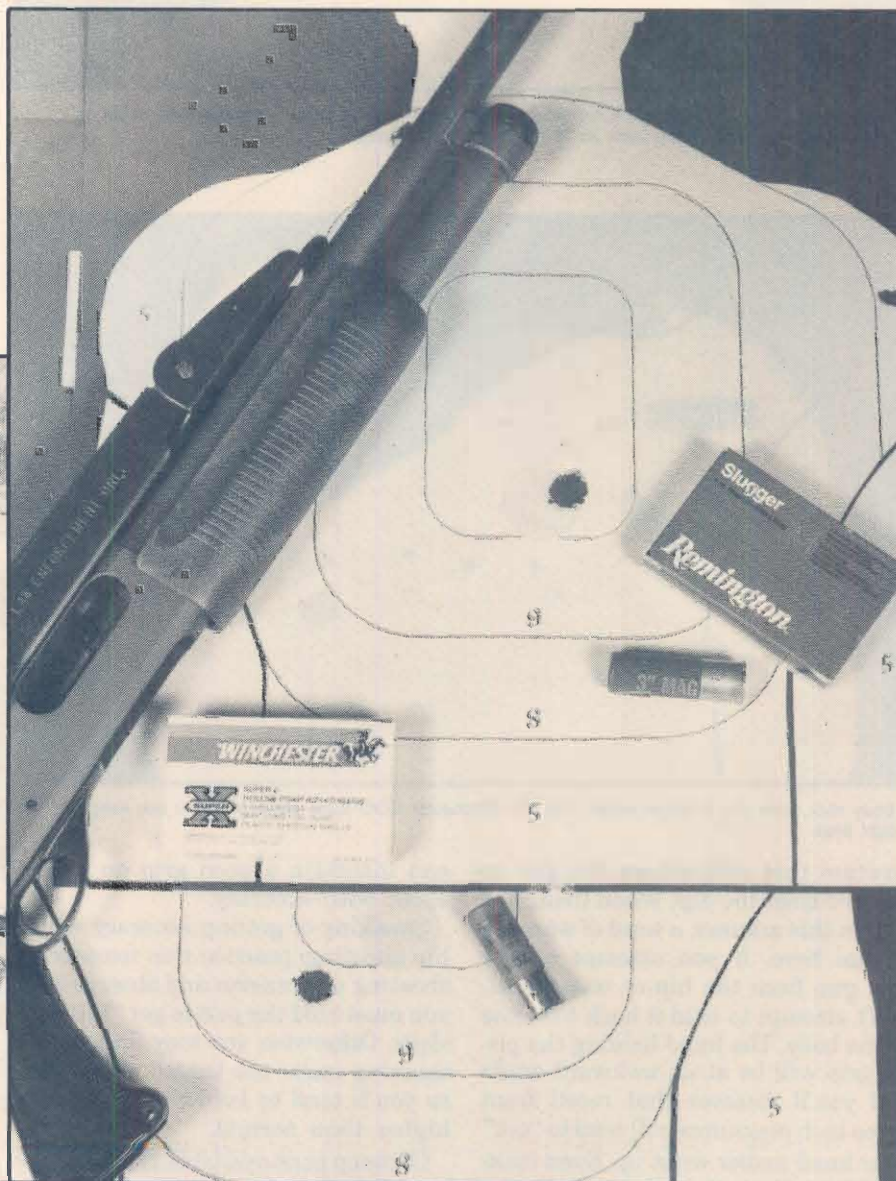
Of all the police-type shotguns available today, one of the best is the Remington Model 870 Police Gun. A pump action, the Model 870 has long been respected as one of the best of this type gun. It's proven itself for years, both in the game field and on the streets, as being exceptionally reliable and able to deliver when the chips are down. Take care of the 870, and it will take care of you.

At present, the M870P is available in either a blued or Parkerized finish, with full wood or steel folding stocks, with 20- or 18-inch barrels, with rifle or bead front sight, and with Improved Cylinder or Cylinder bore integral choking. Remington even offers an 18-inch Parkerized bead-sighted version with a Choate plastic stock. To say the choice of versions is endless is an understatement. In a sense this may be overkill, because with a specialized gun like this, one that is surely not a big seller, why attempt to offer something for everybody.

The gun we ordered for evaluation was an 18-inch Parkerized version with bead sight and folding stock. The design of the steel folding stock is such that it folds atop the receiver, a



Remington's 3-inch mag 000 Buck loading carries 10 lead balls travelling 1225 fps three feet from the muzzle. All pellets struck the target from 10 yards. Of .36 caliber, this hit would be devastating.

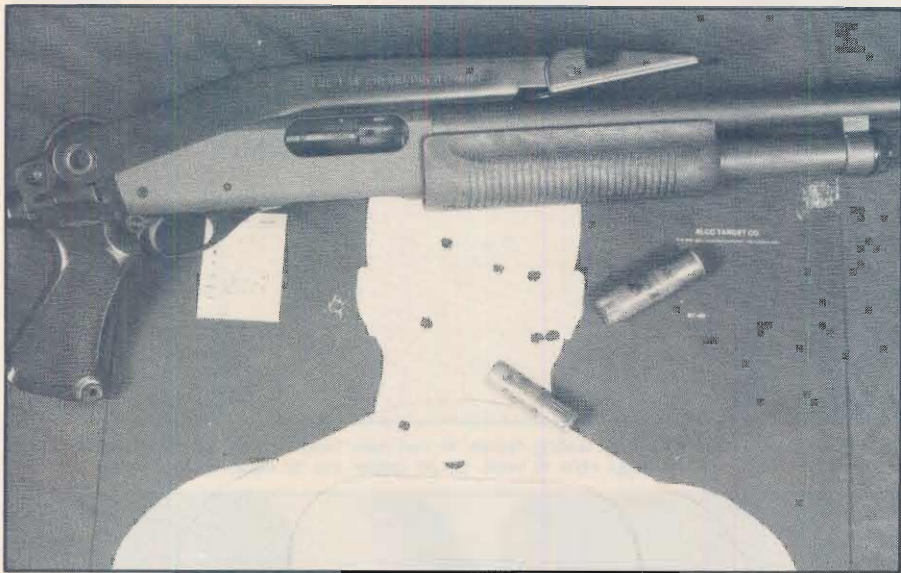


A Remington one-ounce slug from a 3-inch mag shell struck the Peterson Targ-Dot on the upper silhouette. A Winchester one-ounce slug from a 2 3/4-inch shell was an inch low and to the left. Range was 10 yards. Accuracy for both loads was comparable.



Reed poses with the M870P and a target stapled to plywood backing, which was used to prevent slugs from tearing paper to pieces.

M870 Riot Gun



A Winchester 000 Buck load (2 3/4-inch shell) carries eight pellets. Seven contacted the target as shown here, darn good group from an 18-inch barrel at 10 yards.



A body shot gives you a larger target, and the Winchester 000 Buck again proves it can keep hits in a tight area.

position that still allows the gun to be fired from the hip. When firing the gun in this manner, a word of warning is due here. If you attempt to fire this gun from the hip or waist level, don't attempt to hold it back too close to the body. The hand holding the pistol grip will be at an awkward angle and you'll discover that recoil from three-inch magnums will tend to "eat" your hand and/or wrist up. Even standard 2 3/4-inch shells will give you pains you have no need of. Rather, hold the gun out in front a few inches and you

can maintain a good grip on it and shoot with accuracy.

Speaking of getting accuracy while hip shooting, practice this manner of shooting on occasion and observe how you must hold the gun to get "killing" shots. Otherwise, you may find you're shooting under the target, or too low, as you'll tend to hold the pistol grip higher than normal.

Of pump guns available, the Remington M870 is one of the best. The fact that over four million M870s have been sold since they were introduced

in 1950 is testimony to their integrity. The gun features double action slide bars so when you work the slide, the bolt will function smoothly and positively. The new M870Ps are more versatile than ever, thanks to the fact they are chambered for three-inch magnum shells. The gun will accept all 12 gauge shells, including standard 2 3/4-inch versions.

While the M870P carries five shells, Remington offers both 7-shot and 8-shot magazine extensions for 20-inch barrels and 7-shot extensions for the shorter, 18-inch barrel. One good thing about this pump gun is that even after firing a few rounds, you can quickly slip replacement shells into the magazine to keep it full.

During the tests we ran on the M870P at the Lake Elsinore Sportsman's Association range it was discovered that not only will this gun "bite" your hand if you hold it too close into your body while shooting from the hip, but shooting from the shoulder can also be hazardous to your health if you aren't careful. Let's face it, 12 gauge shotguns have been known to "kick" where they're not handled properly. When the M870P kicks, that steel stock can "kiss" your cheekbone, and believe me, that smarts more than wood. For this reason, I became gun shy and favored shooting from the hip.

While sales of this particular model is restricted to police and military agencies, a similar version, known as a Deer Gun, is available with a 20-inch Improved Cylinder choke. After market pistol grip and plastic stocks are also available to convert the Deer Gun to a lightweight protection piece. ●

REMINGTON M870P: Tech Specs

Caliber	12 Gauge, 3" Magnum
Action	Pump
Barrel length	18-inch*
Overall length	38 1/2 inches
Stock	Steel, folding**
Sight, front	Elevated bead
Weight	7 1/4 lbs average
Magazine capacity	Five 3" shells
Options	7 and 8-shot mag extensions
Choke	Improved Cylinder, & Cylinder Bore
Price	Restricted Sales, contact Remington Arms Co.
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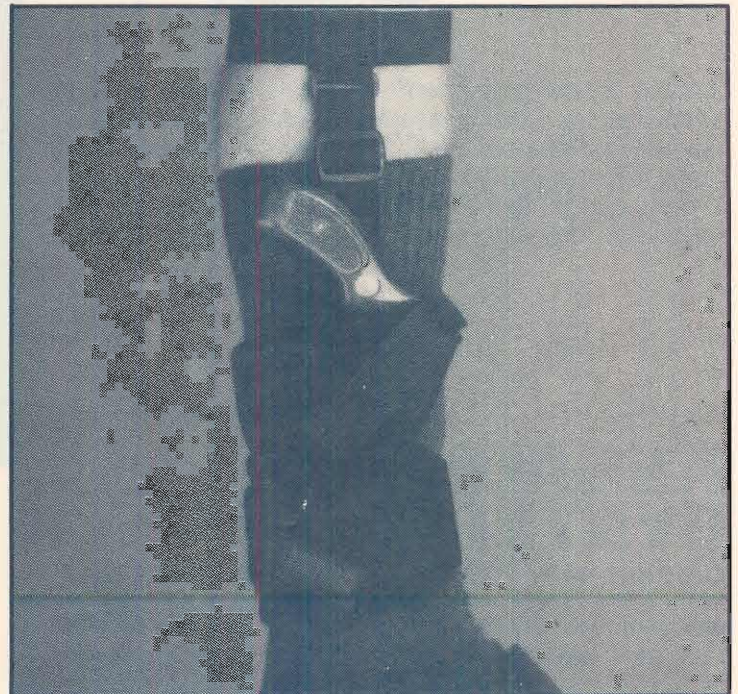
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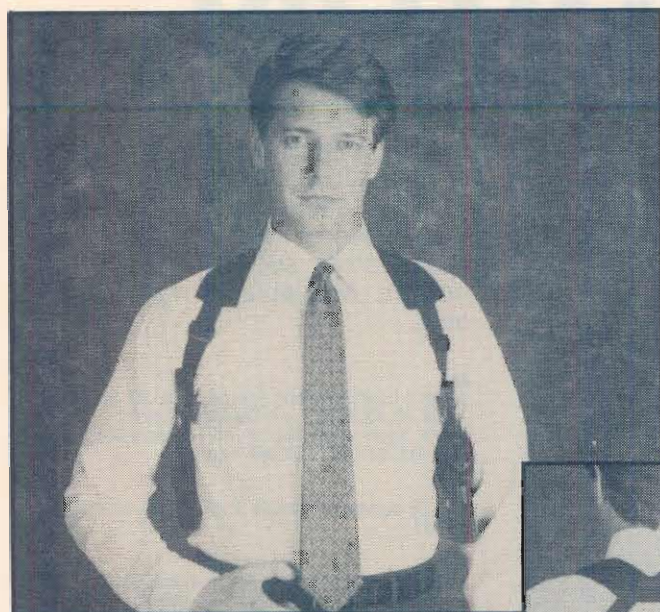
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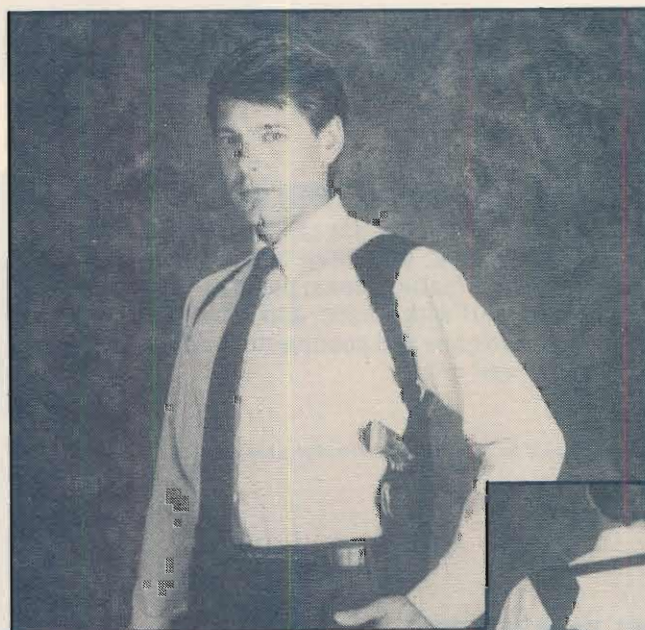


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HHM4
S & W Automatic models, 39, 59, 539, 559, Steyr GB.

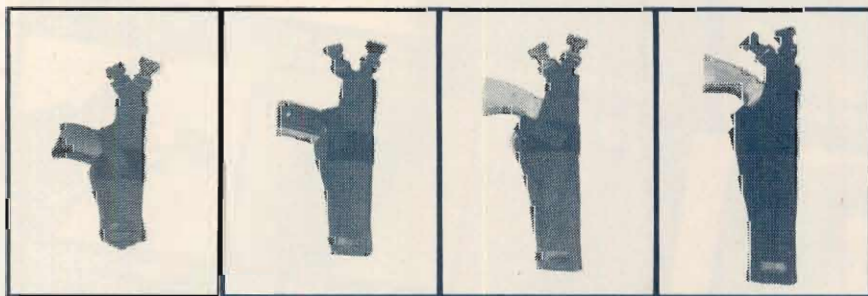
HHM5
Colt Automatic models Government, Combat Government, Gold Cup, Delta Elite, Browning High Power 9MM, GP Competition, AMT Hardballer 45.

HHM6
S & W L & N frame revolvers all barrel lengths, S & W automatic models 439, 459, 639, 659, Colt Python revolver, all barrel lengths, Ruger Redhawk revolvers all barrel lengths, Ruger P-85, Colt automatic model Officer, Commander.

HHM7
S & W automatic models 469, 669, 645, 745, Glock 17, H-K P7, P7M8, P7M13, P9S, SIG Sauer P220, P225, P226, Beretta M92 series.

NEW

VERTICLE HOLSTERS (specify R or L hand)

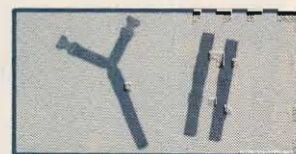


TBS
Thumb-break strap (Velcro)



PHS
Positive hold-down strap (Velcro)

BMS
Attaches dual harness to belt, when not carrying mag pouches



BTS
Attaches horizontal holster or mag pouches to belt

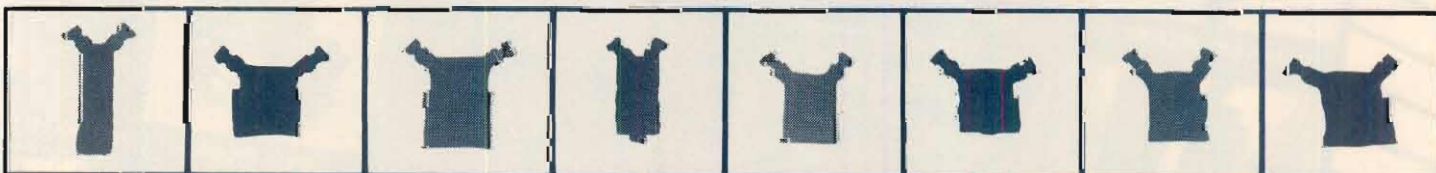
VHMS
S & W, Colt revolvers with 2" & 3" barrels, Ruger revolvers with 2 1/2" barrels, Walther PP, PPK, PPKS, Colt Officers model, 380 Gov, Mustang H-K P7, P7M8, P7M13, 4, P9S, Beretta M84, M85, 70S, 90, SIG Sauer P230, Detonics Pocket 9, Mauser HSC 380

VHMM
S & W, Colt, and Ruger REV. with 4" barrels, Colt Commander, Gov. Comb. Gov., Gold Cup, S & W 39, 59, 439, 539, 459, 559, 639, 659, 645, 745, Browning High Power P35 9MM, GP Competit, Beretta M92, SIG Sauer P220, P225, P226, Steyr GB, Detonics 45, Star PD, Ruger 22 4 1/4, P-85, Glock 17

VHML
S & W revolvers with 6" barrel, Colt revolvers with 6" barrel, Ruger revolvers with 6" barrel, Colt Woodsman 6", S & W model 41-22, Browning Chal. 6 1/4, High Std. 22 Auto, Ruger 22 Auto 5 1/2, Grizzly

VHMXL
S & W revolvers with 8 1/2" barrel, Colt Python with 8" barrel, Ruger Redhawk 7 1/2, Blackhawk 7 1/2, Ruger 22 Auto 6 1/2, Thompson Contender with 10" barrel

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MMP45
2 single row magazines

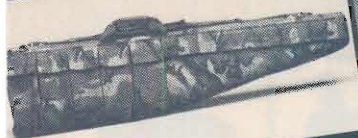
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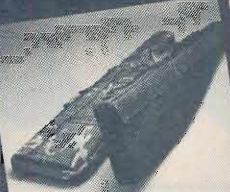
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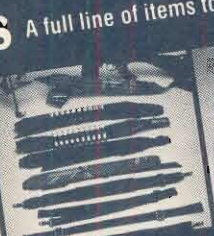
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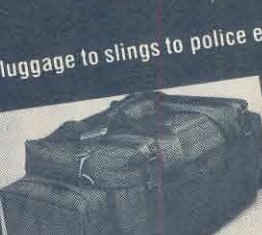
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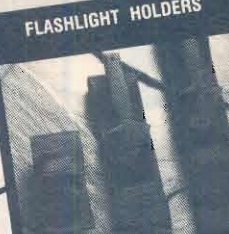
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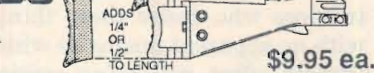
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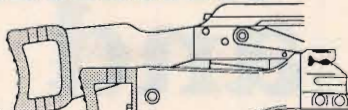
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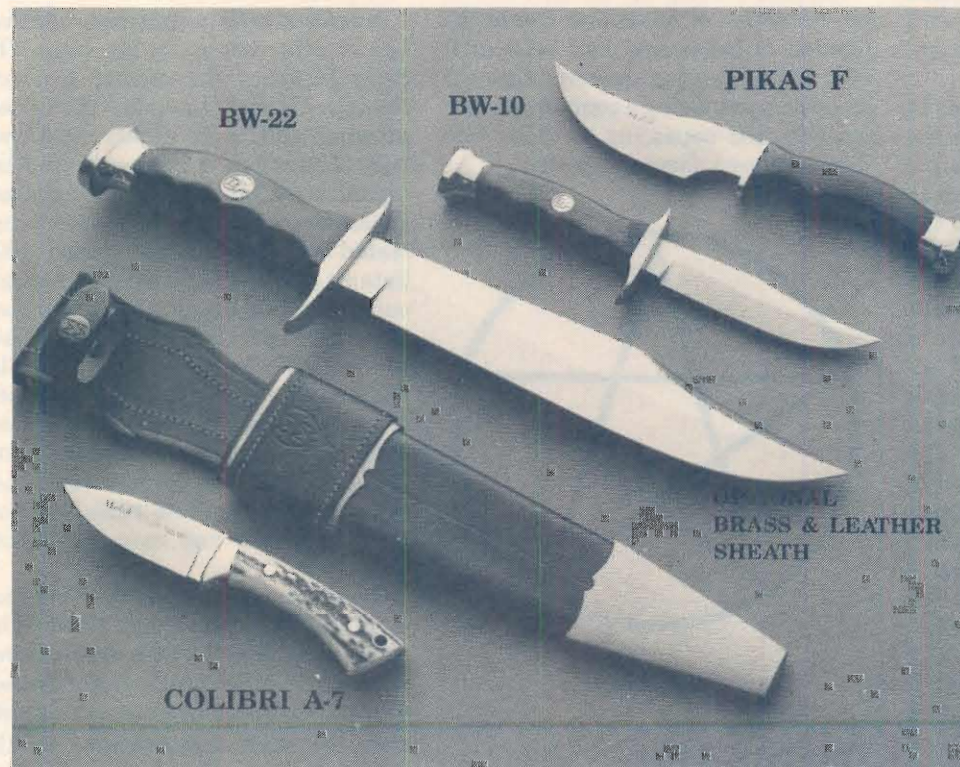
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BAPHOMET

The upside down pentagram, often called the "baphomet," is strictly Satanic in nature and represents the goat's head.

Satanism and Terrorism



HORNED HAND

The "horned hand" is the sign of recognition between those who are in the Occult. It may also innocently be used by those who identify with Heavy Metal music.

There are more than 5,000 Satanic groups throughout the United States. . .

By Carl H. Yaeger

A private investigator in New England who specializes in Satanic ritualistic abuse of children, came across a piece of evidence that several Satanic groups were planning to escalate the level of abuse — formally limited to small animals and children — to acts of full scale terrorism because, as one spokesman for a Satanic group commented, "Satan, our Master, is demanding more and more sacrifices."

A Satanic cult member, an aircraft mechanic with a major airlines hinted that, "An aircraft full of people would be the ultimate sacrifice to Satan, my Master."

An organization which specializes in the investigation of Satanic groups, the U.S. Citizens Commission on Crime and Narcotics, has stated that Satanic activity in American has reached the point where it can now be classified as a bona fide terrorist movement and yes. . . certain Satanic groups *do* have the mind-set to down an airliner if they felt that Satan commanded it.

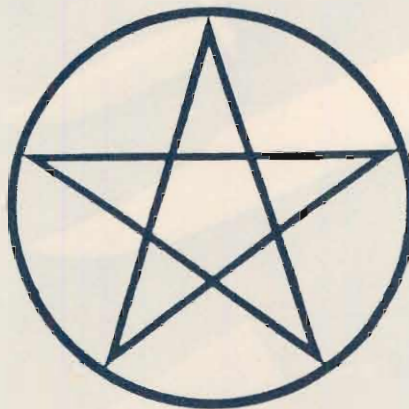
What is the criteria for defining a bona fide terrorist group? Several definitions may be applicable. One is "The calculated use of violence, or threat of violence, to attain political, religious, or ideological goals." Another is, "Terrorism involves a criminal act that is often symbolic, and is designed to influence an audience beyond the immediate victims."

Is Satan himself a terrorist? According to Christian theology, he is the "God of this world," and Satanism is the blatant or secretive worship of Satan, or "Lucifer," the spiritual embodiment of evil, as God.

Satan himself, as seen by Christianity, is the very archetype of the frustrated adolescent who turned to terrorism on earth when his rebellion in heaven was thwarted and his brother, Jesus Christ, was put in charge.

This created one hell of a family squabble, so Satan convinced one-third of the host of heaven, to join him. God and Christ booted them all out of their heavenly abode, and Satan and his followers were consigned to earth to work their mischief.

His first earthly act of mischief was the deception of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and he's been at it ever since, gaining converts through deception, promising a counterfeit spirituality, and appealing to those who desire money, fame, or power.



PENTAGRAM

The "pentagram," or without the circle, the "pentacle," may be used in both Black and White Magic. Generally, the top point represents the spirit, and the other points represent wind, fire, earth, and water.

Satanism has a tremendous appeal to those who desire these things but with no apparent means by which legitimate effort will bring rewards, so they turn to Satanism, witchcraft, and sorcery.

Satan's last words to God, according to Christian theology, were, "that he would reign with blood and terror on this planet in order to frustrate God's plan." Satan worshippers have historically resorted to the kind of terrorism which would fit today's definition of terrorism.

According to Satanism expert Arthur Lyons, who wrote in his book *The Second Coming: Satanism in America*, that the United States has the fastest growing and most highly developed body of Satanists in the world. Another organization which monitors organized Satanism, *Survival Associates*, has stated that there are more than 5,000 Satanic groups of various sizes throughout the United States. It has also been discovered that Satanic activities have been occurring on military installations and have involved military personnel of all ranks. Satanic terrorism such as child abuse and kidnapping, the ritualistic murder of infants, has been around for some time, but now there is a new and more disturbing trend.

Satanism is becoming the "religion of choice," by many violent racist right-wing youth gangs. These are working-class white supremacist groups, which are fast becoming organized and politicized by such organizations as the Aryan Nations, the Order, Ku Klux Klan, W.A.R. (White Aryan Resistance) and several more.

This creates a dilemma for these nominally Christian right-wing groups. One of their primary recruiting pools are youth gangs which are already steeped in Satanism and march to a different drumbeat, that of Heavy Metal rock music instead of the "Horst Wessel" or "Deutschland Uber Alles." These neo-Nazi groups need the bodies of these youthful Satanists as shock troops, but the role of Satan is that of the traditional "bad guy" in their theology. They are going to have to Satanize Christ or Christianize Satan to resolve this problem.

Perhaps the process has already begun. According to the May 1988 *Criminal Intelligence Report*, a Satanic organization known as the Process Church of the Final Judgement has received a startling "revelation." The conflict, and subsequent dualism between Christ and Satan, was overcome by a reconciliation, and there is now a unity between the two "heavenly brothers." Christ has admitted a kind of defeat and that, indeed, his brother's ways are much more suitable for we primitive humans. The Process Church has been investigated for suspected links to The Manson Family, the Son of Sam murders, and other acts of homicide terror.

If the "new theology of reconciliation" of Christ and Satan spreads, if it is accepted by the neo-Nazis and the violent youth gangs, then it would certainly provide a convenient recruiting pitch to the thousands of violent white power youths who march to the drumbeat of Satanic Heavy Metal music.

As extreme right-wing Christian Identity Churches try to Christianize the neo-Nazi movement, it has been

known to historians that Satanism was an important ingredient in the Third Reich of Adolph Hitler. A Satanic paramilitary organization, The Black Order, claimed a membership of thousands in Hitler's Germany in the 1930s. Many of its members joined the Nazi SS "Blackshirts" which offered an ideology of Aryan white supremacy, mindless cruelty, and a return of the old pagan gods.

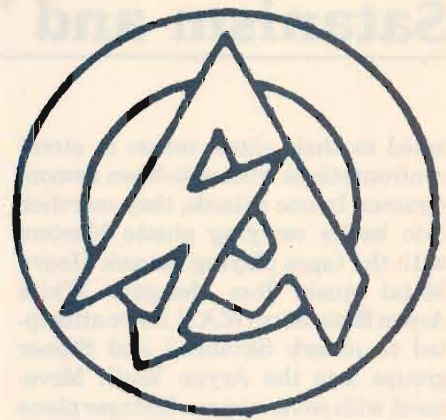
According to Dusty Sklar, a researcher who specializes in the relationship between Nazism and Satanism, in his book, *Gods and Beasts: The Nazis and the Occult*, both Hitler and Heinrich Himmler, head of the dreaded SS, and many other high-ranking Nazis, were heavily involved in Satanic occult practices before they even came to power as a political force. As they became the dominant political force in Germany, the Nazi Party seemed to become captivated by a set of mystical superstitions. According to Sklar, "occult beliefs and practices, however weird, played a major part in the irrational history of the Third Reich."

Sklar also accuses the Nuremberg Tribunal, which tried Nazi war criminals shortly after World War II, of preventing certain "original Nazi depositions" from ever coming to light. Some of these depositions told of periodic sacrifices where the finest specimens of Aryan manhood — always an SS man, were beheaded by orders from Satan. The severed head made a vehicle for communion with Satanic "secret masters" somewhere in the Caucasus Mountains. These secret masters were not earthly, but were instead, the "unearthly representatives of Satan."

Another scholar of the Satanic-Nazi connection, J.H. Brennan, wrote that "The Dark Initiate of Satanism, Adolph Hitler, had remained true to his black creed to the very last and had arranged his affairs so that even his suicide should be a sacrificial tribute to the Prince of Darkness — Satan. "He and his wife, Eva Braun, committed suicide on April 30th, 1945, which is the ancient feast of Beltane, the day which blends into Walgurus Night. It is perhaps, the most important date in the entire calendar of Satanism.

Music Connection — Nazi marching music, with its heavy drumbeats, massed male choruses, and overpowering martial loudness, was composed to overwhelm the emotions; to short circuit rational thinking, and to romanticize war and violence.

So too, Heavy Metal and Punk Rock



SKINHEADS of AMERICA

A skinhead organization symbol.

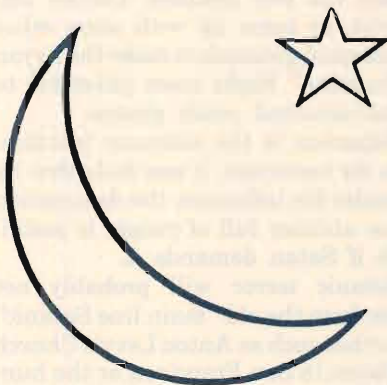
music has become the marching music of youthful Satan groups. These groups, known collectively as "Skinheads" and "Stoners" are often driven by the destructive messages of blatantly Satanic music groups such as Twisted Sister, AC/DC, Motley Crue, KISS (Knights In Satan's Service) Slayer, Ozzy Osbourne, and Judas Priest.

Among the Skinheads and Stoners, the Nazi Swastika as well as "666," the Mark of the Beast, and Satanic pentagrams, are found as wall graffiti as well as skin tattoos. Many of the members of these groups wind up in state or federal prisons. It is here, usually, where they are recruited by "missionaries" from racist political and religious groups (often one in the same) such as the Aryan Brotherhood, a white supremacist group with neo-Nazi/Satanic overtones. Their symbol is a three-leaf clover with the number 6 on each leaf — the Satanic 666, or Mark of the Beast.

According to *The Monitor*, the research publication of The Center for Democratic Renewal, an organization which keeps track of right-wing racist groups, the increase in hate violence based on white racism is a direct result of the ideological cultivation and "politicalization" of white youth gangs by such groups as the Aryan Nations, White Aryan Resistance, and the Ku Klux Klan.

Skinheads and Stoners, often hyped up on Satanic Heavy Metal music, have launched racially motivated terrorist attacks on blacks, Vietnamese refugees, homosexuals, the homeless and hungry and others.

Many youth gangs today have a distinctly developed political identity. In Dallas, the Confederate Strike Force Skinheads have joined forces with the Texas Ku Klux Klan and have often



DIANNA and LUCIFER

Here, the moon goddess "Dianna" and the morning star of "Lucifer" are represented. This symbol may be found in both White Witchcraft and Satanism. When the moon is turned to face the opposite direction, it is primarily Satanic.

Satanism and Terrorism

acted as their shock troops in street confrontations with anti-Klan demonstrators. In one episode, they marched into battle carrying ghetto blasters with the tapes playing Satanic Heavy Metal music. Tom Metzger's White Aryan Resistance (W.A.R.) have attempted to absorb Skinhead and Stoner groups into the Aryan Youth Movement with some success. Metzger plans on organizing these gangs into one huge national organization of disciplined shock troops — the Brown Shirts and Storm Troopers of the 1990s.

Although Metzger's efforts have not produced a unified national organization, it has resulted in the increased politicalization of these groups. Previously unnamed Satanic youth groups are now sporting political identities, such as SWP, or Supreme White Power, Romantic Violence, Blitzkrieg, SS Action Group, American Front Stoners, Warskins, and the Teutonic Order of Skinheads.

The Satanic music of Heavy Metal has added a new dimension; the racist message of the neo-Nazi youth groups. New Skinhead and Stoner rock bands ape the British racist rock groups which have been around for several years. One group, Skrewdriver, has recorded such tunes as "White Power" and "Nigger, Nigger." Other British bands have names such as Brutal Attack, Prime Suspects, and Skull heads. American music groups such as White Pride and U.S. Chaos are pushing their own musical message of racial hatred. The name of one American

group is a grim reminder of the ultimate Satanic-Nazi outrage... The Final Solution.

The neo-Nazi cult of violence is spreading across Europe, facilitated by violence-prone soccer fans. Belgian and British neo-Nazis have been working together and Swedish groups are becoming more active.

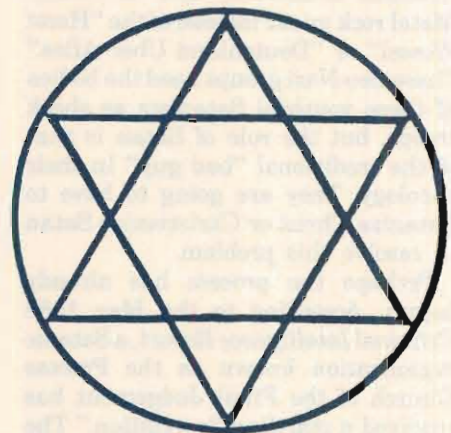
Quest For Power — Many of the alienated white working class youths who drift into Satanism and eventually into neo-Nazi groups share one common trait with youthful terrorists the world over: a tremendous feeling of powerlessness; the feeling that they are no longer in control of their lives, their destiny, or the future of their country. "Other" forces have the power and pull the strings of their existence. The youth gangs give them a newfound sense of power; a sense of belonging, and when they engage in shockingly violent acts, this validates their existence.

One youthful Skinhead, with Satanist and Nazi tattoos all over his body, remarked to a prison psychologist, "Hey, Christ and Satan have been slugging it out for thousands of years. Look around you, man. Look at the world. Who do you think is winning? I'm gonna stick with the winner."

The white racist youth gangs are the subject of admiring stories by *The Spotlight*, the weekly publications of the anti-Jewish organization, *The Liberty Lobby*, and *Frontline*, a neo-Nazi publication of the National Liberation Front. A 1986 article and photo spread extolled the gangs without mentioning their Satanist connections: "*Skinheads! They're young, they're wild, and they're standing up for America with their violent displays of patriotism.*"

The Spotlight article hailed their "macho creed" of two-fisted values such as personal courage and fighting skills, asserting that the "struggle for today's youth is one for the ultimate values of national and racial survival, the paramilitary racist youth gangs are prepared to bring their new social order to America."

As one spokesman for a Chicago-based white power youth gang stated; "We've got three things going for us; white working class kids have got nowhere to turn — except for us. The Aryan revolution is appealing to more



HEXAGRAM

The "hexagram," also referred to as the "Seal of Solomon" is said to be one of the most powerful symbols in the Occult.

and more people as the rich get richer and the middle class is wiped out. And, most important, we have tapped into the supreme source of energy on this planet... the energy of Satan."

Just as Hitler and the Nazis reaped the harvest of the decimated middle class in Germany during the Great Depression, and forged them into a mighty instrument of terror, so the neo-Nazi Far Right plans on tapping into the raw violent power of the Satanic youth gangs.

And just as the Nazis "Aryanized" Christ and made him into a violent diety similar to the old pagan gods, so the right-wing theologians will have to either "force a reconciliation" between the two brothers, Lucifer and Christ, or come up with some other theological gimmick to make the Aryan "Christian" Right more palatable to Satan-oriented youth groups.

Satanism is the ultimate justification for terrorism. If one feels that he is under his influence, the destruction of an airliner full of people is justifiable if Satan demands it.

Satanic terror will probably not come from the old "main line Satanic" churches such as Anton Levy's Church of Satan in San Francisco, or the hundreds of unorganized devil cults that infest our country. Satanic terrorism, to satisfy the traditional definition of terrorism, will have to have a political component, and the most convenient, and logical, is the neo-Nazi/Skinhead connection. ●

666

FFF



"THE MARK OF THE BEAST"
(REV 13: 16-18)

Four different ways of referring to the "Mark of the Beast" or Satan. Note that the letter "F" is the sixth letter of the alphabet.



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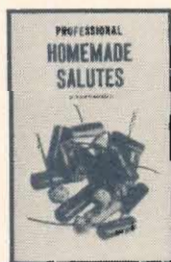


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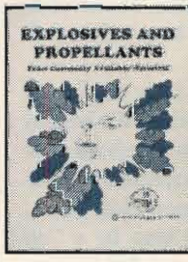
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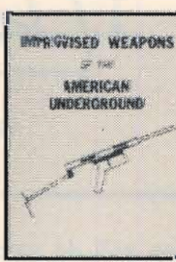
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'Do Or Die':

Quin-Zhee Snow Shelter

By Ralph LaPlant

Easy and fun to build...

A FEW years ago, my wife and I travelled to Churchill, Manitoba, to photograph the polar bears that frequent the area.

On this trip, I met a lady at Parks Canada in Churchill and as we began talking, she told me a story about her father who had become stranded while trapping up in the Hudson Bay Area.

It was winter and he was in a "do or die" situation. What he did to survive was make a snow shelter.

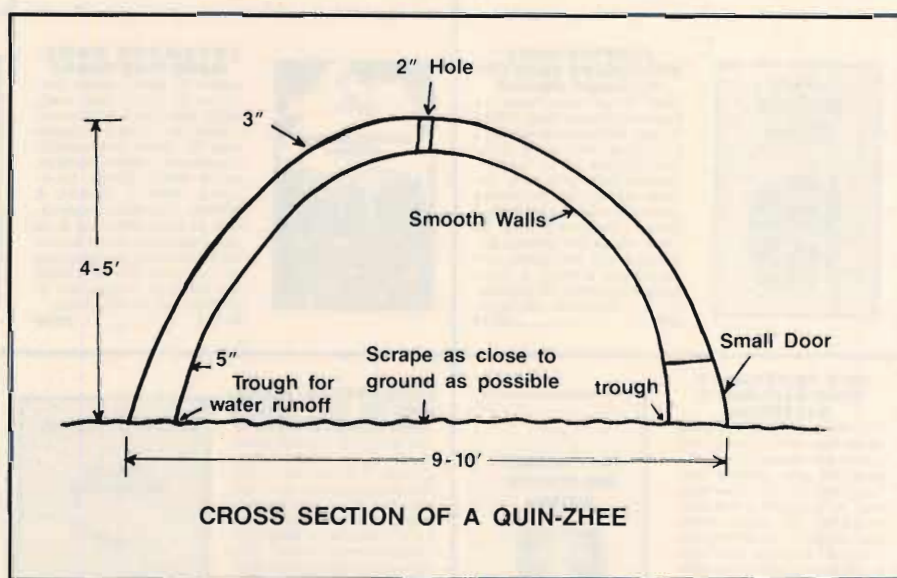
She explained the construction procedure to me, and as she talked, I became more intrigued with it. We returned to our home in northern Minnesota, which has some heavy snowfall winters on occasion, and I built one of these shelters, called a Quin-Zhee.

The procedure is quite simple, requiring about three hours time, two hours of that is time waiting for the snow to crystalize. The other hour is mainly shoveling. The principle of how it works is simpler yet. The outside walls protect the occupants from the winds. The ground, plus any surplus heat available keep it relatively warm inside.

Let me explain:

First, it is important to allow yourself a few hours to construct a Quin-Zhee, so start early in the day as darkness comes early, anyway. Secondly, find a level spot that is, ideally, naturally out of the wind. The shelter will protect from the wind, but the more wind barrier the better.

Now tromp in the snow a circle about 9 to 10 feet in diameter. Trow it down good. Then shovel with whatever you have (snowshoes, piece of metal, your hands, or if you're lucky a shovel) a mound of snow over where you previously tromped. A four- to five-foot



heap will do nicely.

Now comes the waiting period. It is nice to let the snow heap crystalize about one hour, longer if it is warm outside.

During this time you can make other needed preparations such as gathering water, food, fuel for a small fire inside the shelter or for signalling and if nothing else, for resting. For if you did not pace yourself during the tromping and heaping stage, you will be tired and sweaty, two unneeded things in the cold. Pace yourself!

After sufficient time has elapsed, start tunneling into the mound, usually from the east, away from prevailing winds. Your goal here is to tunnel and carve out the inside of the mound to the shape of the outside of the mound, leaving about three inches at the top, and a thickness of about five inches at the base. A small wire or stick can help you in determining how

close you are to the outside by pushing it through and feeling the decrease in resistance when you break to the outside. Also, you will see the sunlight when the walls get thin.

Scrape as close to the ground as possible as it will emit some heat. Make sure that the inside is as smooth as possible as when it warms up, there might be some dripping.

If the walls are rough, water will drip straight down on the occupants. If they are smooth, the water will tend to adhere to the walls and run down them to the outer area of the inside. Here's where a run-off trough comes in handy. Simply scrape a small trough around the inside base of the Quin-Zhee so that it ends on each side of the door. This should remove all run-off created by melting.

Final touches include making a small hole, about two inches in the top of the shelter. This along with the door,



Find a relatively flat spot that is sheltered from the sun and wind as much as possible. Tromp down snow to ground level in the shape of a circle having a 9- to 10-foot diameter.



Shovel snow into a pile four to five feet high, filling up the area previously tromped down. Let it crystalize for one hour, longer if it is warm outside.



Start tunneling into the mound. Be careful not to puncture the walls.

allows for ventilation. This is extremely important if a candle or some other heat source is used inside. A door can be made by using a block of snow or whatever else you might have available. The door should be big enough only for the largest party to use the shelter to crawl through.

The shelter is obviously white in color, therefore it blends into the surrounding environment. If you want to be camouflaged, that's OK. If you want to be noticed or want to find it again, I'd suggest some sort of staff above the snow level, brightly colored to assist you.

As with all types of emergency procedures, it is best to practice them before the actual need arises. With a little practice, I'm sure you will find the Quin-Zhee easy and fun to build. I also feel that you will see how that Hudson Bay trapper survived a cold sub-arctic night. ●

Weaponry:

Machine Guns

'A good part of ownership of fully automatic weapons is responsibility'...

American
B.A.R.
M1918A2
fired at
targets 120
yards
away.



Firing the Soviet PPSh submachine gun.



MG.42 is still made in
Germany, Italy and Spain
and probably Yugoslavia.



The Thompson M1A1.



Beretta Modello 38.

By Jim Thompson

FORGET the rumors and the underground ramblings. No federal law forbids the ownership of machine guns. The 1986 "ban" outlawed the manufacture or import of further new

receivers of fully automatic configuration for civilian use.

Neither traffic in them nor ownership was forbidden. It is true that the National Firearms Act and GCA '68 carefully prescribe registration and transfer conditions for all fully auto-

matic weapons, and that many states and some municipalities make the process of owning any machine gun so miserable and convoluted that there are states and cities where it is annoying and probably unwise to even begin the process.

But for most of us, machine guns are not illegal.

Bear in mind, though, this is not a game. All automatic weapons must be registered, every transfer meticulously recorded, and even their lawful use for practice may bring up some terribly awkward questions.

Wise procedure begins with checking out local laws. Inquiring of your local or area federal (BATE) Bureau of

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms office, and consulting your class III dealer. If you circumvent the law, you can almost count on doing hard time.

Like most aspects of shooting, machine guns can be a lot of fun. And if you're wise, that's the way you'll think of them. Remember, the guns themselves and the registration fees are expensive. But ammunition is likely to be far more expensive than the gun over the long haul. So it's important to enjoy what you're doing as you acquire skills and proficiency.

The main difference, other than legalities, between fully automatic weapons and all other firearms is the obvious one: everything happens much faster. Even at the gentle, leisurely pace of 250 to 350 rounds per minute, the "slow" rate of some light machine guns and automatic rifles, a "squib" — a partially ignited round which leaves a bullet lodged down your barrel — can cause very severe damage to yourself and your weapon, simply because the shooter may discharge several more rounds behind it before noticing anything really unusual has happened. Remember, the usual rules of safety and cleanliness not only apply to the machine gun, they apply in direct proportion to rate of fire increase. . . in other words, at least with TEN TIMES the impact of a semiautomatic rifle.

In preparing a recent book on automatic weapons, I had to do extensive repairs and replace barrels on several otherwise wonderful weapons, worth many thousands of dollars, whose owners had neglected to properly clean them the last time they were fired 10 to 15 years previously.

Not only corrosive ammunition but the machine gun's tendency to get very



Suppressed MAC-10 being fired.



U.S.-made Reising M50.



Swedish K45 Carl Gustav.

hot and erode and/or absorb moisture when hot contribute to conditions where cooling, quenching, and cleaning barrels and actions can greatly prolong the life of a firearm which may very well cost twice the price of a good family automobile. I've been accused of being a cleanliness and lubrication fanatic, and that epithet is one I never reject. I learned the lesson at great cost many years ago, and my confidants will tell you my weapons generally look better after 10 years' ownership than many still new on the shelf.

With automatic weapons, my techniques will prolong the life of a barrel to many times normal. I run wet patches, almost casually, through a hot to warm barrel, every time I can, right

Machine Guns

on the firing line every chance I get. Water or solvent may saturate the patch. I detail clean later.

So before you make any consumer decisions, remember that a good part of the ownership of fully automatic weapons is responsibility. And a good part of that responsibility is the obligation to protect your investment with a standard of care above that normally lavished on your other firearms.

The other part of your responsibility to yourself is making the correct initial decision before your purchase. That is, do not buy a firearm — any firearm — that isn't going to do what you want.

First, forget everything you ever saw in a film, and the more specific it is, the more wrong it is likely to be. If it isn't a lie, it's at least an exaggeration. MAC-10s fired forehand/offhand are particularly unsuitable for precision shooting and anyone who fires a gas-operated gun with a long tube like the M-60 in a liquid saturated (water/oil) condition is right on the edge of suicide. The same goes for accurate million-round bursts and 10,000 round magazines. Fifty or 60 takes and a bevy of first class tech men can make some of this hogwash into exciting action, but none of it has anything to do with reality.

Do your consulting with people who have fired and handled many different kinds of similar weapons, and who can cross compare different types and separate the hype from reality. And remember, a lot of what you read that's passed off as gospel is as ridiculous as the movies, and nearly as fictional.

Try actually shooting an M1921/28 Thompson "with the Blish lock removed" and you'll see what I mean. Yet several texts assure you it's possible. "Cooking off" a pot of tea in a Vickers jacket won't kill you immediately, though it may later... but you're real likely to get sick right on the spot.

And read the manual before you even think about loading any automatic weapon. There are very few which do not contain a heavy, self-propelled spring somewhere that can hurt you, and it's best to know exactly where that baby is before it finds your forehead.

Try to determine early on whether your purchase or potential purchase was made and/or converted by the



M1917A1 Browning .30 caliber water cooled machine gun.

original manufacturer or by someone else, and if by someone else, exactly who did the work? The '86 "ban" had the effect of getting some very rushed jobs onto the market, including some receivers made by anonymous or near-anonymous manufacturers who, though legal, appeared and disappeared in very short order. Some very popular submachine guns — MAC-10 and Uzi variants, especially — are acquiring bad reputations not because of the actual, original manufacturers, but because of folks who can no longer be located who tried desperately to cash in on the last minute rush. With some vintage weapons, it is sometimes wiser to locate a good deactivated, registered gun, then have it remanufactured by a properly licensed factory, than to buy a "new" receiver made in somebody's basement, probably from a casting and undoubtedly without proper heat treatment. Here again, the wisdom of obeying the law becomes very important, for if you have an illegal gun that won't work, you *literally* have a paperweight or lamp base that can get you sent to jail, for your chances of getting it fixed legitimately are ZERO.

Test Firing — This makes it smart to test fire any automatic weapon, preferably the one you're actually interested in or something very similar. And therein lie several problems.



Assorted Thompson guns.

There is a gray area wherein many Class III dealers don't even like to allow potential customers to fire weapons under very controlled circumstances. Such "testing" can infer transfer. And the potential liability problems are enormous. And to be quite frank, automatic weapons tend to attract enough genuine oddball types to make anyone nervous.

Mandall's Shooting Supplies in Scottsdale, Arizona, is one of the few places in the country where, for a price — range time plus gun rental and usually plus ammunition — about 20 to 30

(Continued on page 58)



U.S. lightweight M-60.

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Model B \$27.95

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WKS PICKS

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\$9.95



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\$59.95

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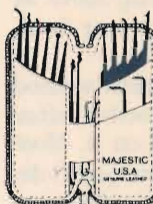
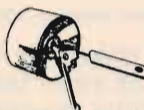


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SCHLAGE WAFER

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MD16

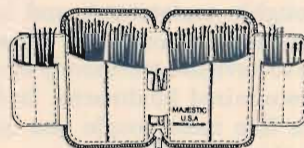
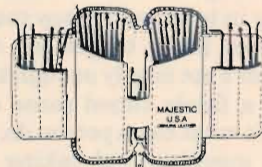
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MD32

Hip Pocket Size, Top Grain Cowhide Leather, Zippered Case, has 32 picks, Tension Wrenches, Broken Key Extractor.

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Back Tracking

Sleuth your way back to camp by reading the clues and signs you have left along the way. . .

By G.J. Sagi

FINALLY standing over that long sought after trophy buck, you're filled with a sense of accomplishment. Unfortunately, it's soon replaced by overwhelming panic, when you can't remember which way back to camp.

It doesn't really matter whether it was the hunt's excitement, the long chase, or even longer stalk . . . either way you're lost. One wrong move at this point, and it could be your final, fatal mistake.

Years ago, backcountry guides seemed to have a real nose for direction, after all, their living depended on it. Most modern outdoorsmen however, can't devote as much time to learning orientation. The average person spends at least five days a week scratching out a living in town, and many consider themselves lucky to get out once a year. That's not nearly enough time to develop a finely tuned sense of direction.

So what can a person do, simply keep on guessing and taking chances, or perhaps leave the outdoors to the professionals? The absolute best method of insuring your safe return, is to thoroughly understand, and learn to use a map and compass. It's even possible to navigate exclusively by tall, easily recognized landmarks. In fact, if you're like most people you use a combination of both.

But what about those times when you spot something you'd love to explore further, but were totally unprepared? What happens when the forest is so tall that it's impossible to take compass readings? How is it that some people seem to navigate flawlessly, even on moonless nights?

Back tracking is one of the most reliable, yet often overlooked methods of finding your way back. Basically, all you do is track yourself, and it's a perfect way to supplement a compass



Broken branches are another good indicator — especially if they're at a height too tall for animals.

in some very tough situations. It's much easier than it sounds, and with a little practice you'll soon be able to enhance your trail by leaving clues along the way.

Anytime you're working in a particularly rough, hilly, or thickly forested area, it's a good idea to deliberately mark the trail periodically (especially when you're exploring new terrain). Not too long ago guides would cut a mark in a tree, facing the direction of return. Though we avoid this practice today because of the damage it does, there are certain things you can do to

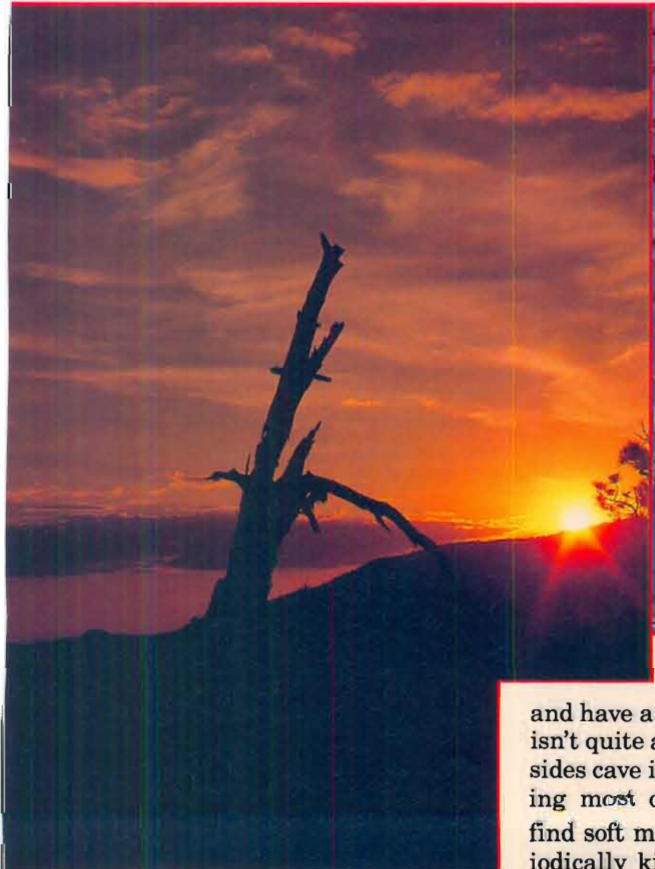
make your route back easier to follow.

Probably the most important step is to thoroughly study your own boot print. Many people that track quite a bit, will actually cut a notch in their sole to make it easier to identify. It does you absolutely no good to follow a "trail" back to someone else's camp, only to find they're long gone!

One of the best ways to enhance your trail, is to make a habit of leaving good footprints behind. Usually that means stepping on anything on the trail, that's pliable enough to hold it (within reason). Snow and drying mud are ideal,



If you can't remember the exact route back over terrain like this, it could mean several hours' delay or even getting lost. It's important to be able to identify and follow your own tracks.



Did you remember to make tracks? If not, it's going to be a long cold night!

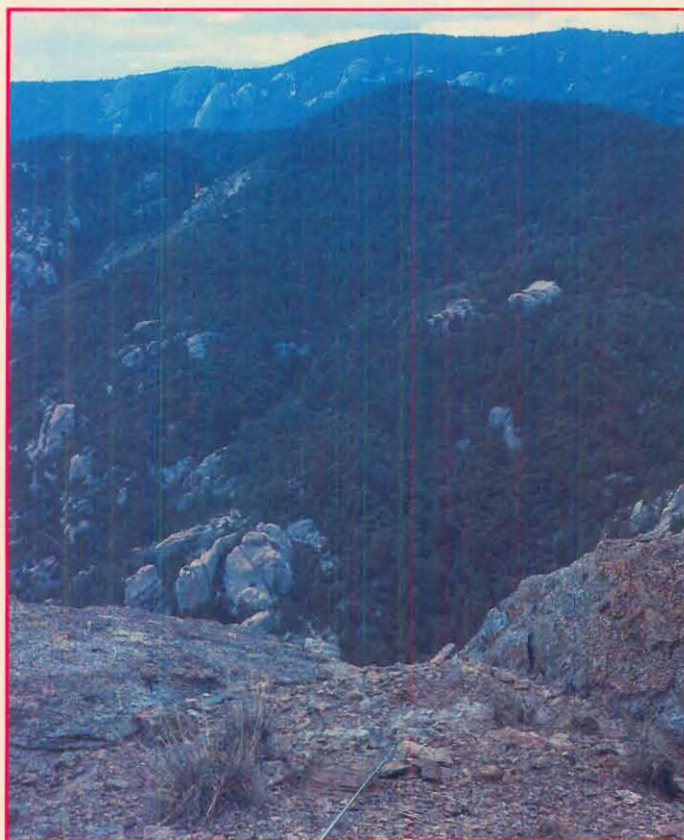


In rugged terrain, you can use flagging to mark your route back. Here crepe paper was salvaged from a party. It's biodegradable in case you leave some of it behind.

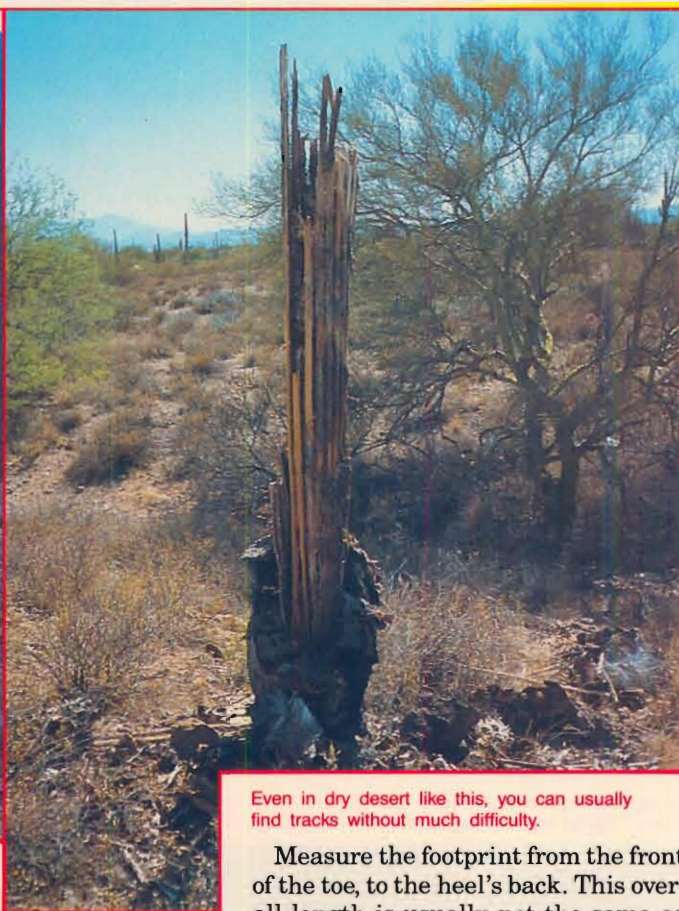
and have a very good "memory." Sand isn't quite as good, simply because the sides cave in after a few hours, obscuring most of the detail. If you can't find soft material along the way, periodically kick your heel into the dirt and you'll leave very pronounced markings.

Sooner or later, you may run across an area, where it's impossible to leave a single print. Should it be large enough, the problem soon becomes serious and could get you lost. Thick mats of pine needles, running water, and rock faces are only a few of these areas.

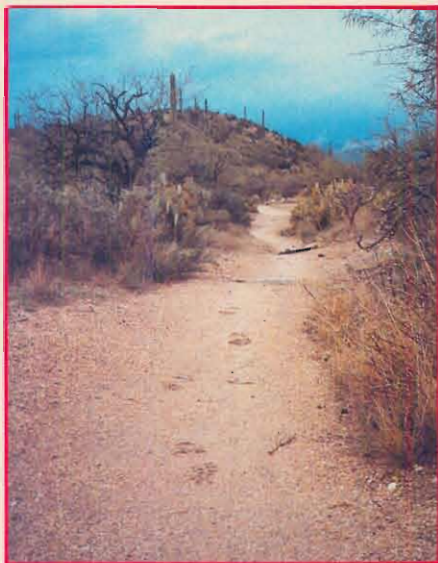
Back Tracking



An old antenna is ideal for a tracking stick. It not only adjusts to the proper stride length, but it folds for easy storage.



Even in dry desert like this, you can usually find tracks without much difficulty.



On rainy days it's a real comfort to find and follow your own tracks back to safety.

Used almost exclusively by search and rescue teams, one of the best ways to mark a problem route is with flagging. Basically it's any bright strip of paper, tied at eye level or above in trees along the trail. Bright yellow and orange are visible by flashlight, and stand out well in the woods. I prefer

crepe paper streamers over engineer's tape, because it's lightweight, biodegradable (in case you forget some), cheap, and easy to find.

I've also seen people stack rocks, or use a stick to scrape an arrow in the trail. I don't like either method, simply because they're almost invisible at night, and when you keep the flagging in your pocket you don't need to bend over quite as often (stacking rocks is not fun with a full backpack).

Actually tracking a lost person is entirely different, and in my mind, one of the most enjoyable outdoor skills to learn. On more than one occasion, the U.S. Border Patrol has used this Indian art not only to arrest illegal drug traffickers, but to save a lost child.

Just like before, the first and foremost step is to identify, and study the person's footprint. If it's in a high traffic area, or about to be obscured by other well meaning searchers, somehow protect and isolate at least one good set of prints. Once you begin tracking and are miles away, you won't be able to refer to this good track, so make a habit of taking notes.

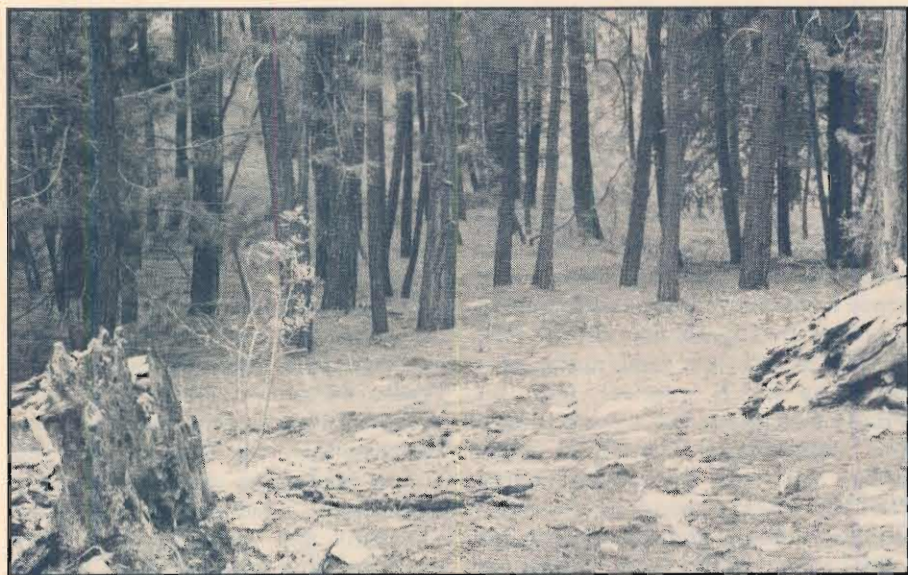
Measure the footprint from the front of the toe, to the heel's back. This overall length is usually not the same as shoe size, though it can be. Then measure the widest part of the heel, the ball, and the thinnest part of the track (usually between the two). This gives you a pretty good "fingerprint," but always make a rough sketch just in case.

Locate the person's very next step, and measure the distance between the two. Known as stride length, this too varies widely, and is the single most important piece of tracking information available. Long lengths are typical of tall, fit people, while a child's short legs force their steps closer together.

Even when you're tracking the same person, stride length can at times vary. While uphill stretches will usually see it shorten, it'll lengthen again on the way down. Tired or heavily laden people have shorter strides than those that are fresh, or without a burdensome pack (assuming they started with the same stride length). This knowledge makes it possible for a tracker to assess the relative physical condition of the person he's after without ever seeing them.



In most cases, even without an entire track, freshly bent vegetation is a good indicator of direction of travel.



Sometimes being able to spot the easiest route is the best way to track yourself out of trouble.

There are no tools or equipment required to track well, but a "tracking stick" is very helpful. Basically it's any long, straight stick, that ideally has two rubber bands on it (I use an old walkie-talkie antenna since it stores so well). If nothing else, rummage around the area until you find something suitable.

Place one end of the tracking stick on the print's heel. Now roll one of the rubber bands to where the toe ends, and your stick conveniently memorizes track length. Now rotate the tracking stick, until it touches the very next track. Move the second rubber band there, and it has stored stride length as well.

As I mentioned before, unless something happens, stride length usually doesn't vary dramatically. That means that each time you place your tracking stick on a print and slowly rotate, it'll touch the print beyond, and once you put it on that one... The big advantage to this system, is how well it points

out tracks, even on the hardest ground. When you use a tracking stick, you'll be amazed how well you can find even the tiniest of clues.

Sooner or later, you'll come to a spot that looks like the end of the trail. Particularly when you're learning, it's best to continue looking for some evidence of the next step, no matter how hopeless it looks. This is where the tracking stick comes in.

When you rotate the stick, you're pretty sure of where the next step should have been. Usually you have a general direction of travel, and more than likely a spot you think they stepped on. Now prove it.

Look for "compression" cracks around rocks they might have walked on. Believe it or not, when you put weight on a small object, it digs into the soil. That "compression," is clear evidence. Perhaps they stepped on a green plant. Look for bruising, and if it's laying down in a certain direction. Though you won't get a clear track, almost

invariably plants lay down and point in the direction of travel when they're trampled.

One of the most consistent clues, are tiny heel digs. They seem to show up, even on the hardest surface. In rocky areas, you may only see one pebble, turned over with mud on its bottom. But that is enough evidence to put your tracking stick down there, and begin to look for the next print (especially in a wilderness area).

You don't always have to rely on the soil for help. Oftentimes, branches are broken or knocked off when someone brushes against them. Even the simple act of walking between two trees, can make the branches go back unnaturally, though this is very hard to detect (basically one branch goes back first, then the other, rather than the wind swept intermingling that's natural).

Even when someone enters a stream, there is usually some water splashed where they got out. Mud often sticks to lug soles, making tracking that much easier afterwards. If they "brush up" their tracks, hoping to avoid detection, it's even easier to follow them. After all, most areas are filled with hiker, rabbit, deer, and car tracks—an area without any almost looks like a paved highway once you've practiced for a while.

Perhaps the least understood part of tracking, is the subtle role light plays. Tracking a few hours before and after twelve noon is murder, and should be avoided at all costs.

At sunrise or sunset, the light hits tracks at a steep enough angle to reveal even the tiniest detail. If you're forced into mid-day tracking, try and shield the tracks from the sun with your hat, and shine a flashlight or signal mirror at them. Get as low as you can to optimize viewing angle. Since your direction of travel is determined by the person you're tracking, try looking from both left and right sides of the trail, to maximize your speed and ease of operation. Those times you're forced into tracking at night, get the light as close to the ground as possible.

As unbelievable as it sounds, by religiously using the tracking stick, anyone can become a proficient tracker with a little practice. With how conveniently it points to the next track, you won't believe the tiny clues you'll soon find. It's not long until your speed increases, and you won't need the stick until the toughest spots. It's fun, and best of all... the life it saves could be your own! ●

Machine Guns

(Continued from page 52)

automatic weapons may be viewed and, when the fancy strikes, fired in the excellent indoor environment. That's where the indoor shooting photos with this article were taken.

In consumer terms most automatic weapons are efficacious products. That is, they're almost all reasonably good. Most any submachine gun, for example, can deliver credible accuracy out to 75 yards fired from the shoulder, most light machine guns can place solid bursts to several hundred yards, and most any heavy or medium machine gun can outshoot your best rifle, and be a genuine joy to work as well. The assault rifles are another breed of cat, though — they're intended for fairly accurate fire out to about 200 to 300 yards, but in fairly short bursts. I've generally gotten better results from the Soviet 7.62x39 round, in virtually all guns, than from 5.56mm/.223, which I've come to consider a long-range submachine gun round.

Almost nothing about automatic weapons is unknown. But it's amazing how often logic and arithmetic are forgotten by people who are laying down a lot of money. For example, to buy a MAC or Uzi and complain about accuracy is ridiculous. Uzi is far more accurate than the MAC, but fired off the forearm or with the folding stock it wobbles and sprays. These are guns purchased because they're small and usually reliable.

If you buy a submachine gun primarily for accuracy, a Hungarian 39M, Suomi, Reising, or the H&K MP-5 are better choices. The 39M and its follow-ons in the "43" series are very rare, but the Reising is available and very cheap because of a lot of largely fictional and seemingly commercial negative publicity, and shoots like a dream. MP-5 and Suomi are exceptionally accurate guns, and the beefy, heavy Suomi is a very fast-firing gun as well. Both the Reising and the MP-5 fire from the closed bolt, meaning less action chatter. . . but they're radically different guns.

There are virtually no automatic rifles or light machine guns in production now, but two "greats," the B.A.R. and the BREN or its Czech forebear, the ZB26-30 series, are far and away the handiest and most popular. Especially handy for those who like to take advantage of surplus ammo as available is the F.N. B.A.R. Model D, which



The Uzi, top, MAC-10, lower left, and Mini Uzi.

can be converted by quick change barrels to .308, 7mm. Mauser, 7.92x57 (8mm) Mauser, .30/06, and 7.65x54 Mauser, all these changes necessitating only three different magazines. The guns are accurate, sturdy, and though they break firing pins from time to time, quite reliable.

General Purpose Machine Gun —

The general purpose machine gun, usually belt-fed, has replaced light machine guns and most mediums on production lines worldwide. Far and away the best are the MG.42, still made in Germany, Italy and Spain and probably in Yugoslavia, and the F.N. M.A.G. M.A.G. is a combination of a beefed-up B.A.R. receiver with an MG.42 feed group, but is quite rare in the United States. The HK.21 works rather well with the reduced-charge CETME 7.62x51 round, but becomes downright fragile and abusive with full .308/7.62x51 NATO loads. I have no real experience with the 7.62x54R Soviet PK, very rare in the U.S., but am told it works brilliantly.

Most Class III dealers and shooters with deep experience rate our own M-60, a very German gun combining the operating system, of FG.42, the paratrooper assault rifle, with the feed system of MG.42, about the lowest of all the general purpose machine guns, somewhat surprising to many people since it is the most expensive. This all has to do with the barrel change and gas system, both a little odd and a little touchy. Even as "the worst," though, M-60 is a pretty good gun, and the quality of the actual work on a Maremont or Rock Island (Ill. commercial) M-60 is stunning.

In the medium and heavy guns, my personal favorites are the Czech ZB.37 and anything water-cooled. Any medium machine gun with good ammo will amaze you with its accuracy. And if it's water cooled, it will be even more accurate because of the heavy support at both ends and superior cooling, and give its owner genuine long burst cap-

ability far beyond an air cooled gun. The Brownings are especially handy and easy to keep working, since parts are available and fairly cheap.

The Browning .50s are especially fun to shoot, though ammo at \$1 to \$2 per round makes one pause a little before each press of the trigger butterfly. If you can see, you can hit anything out to the limit of your visibility. A mile away is not truly safe from the 630- to 750-grain slug, and a tender trigger on the big M2 HB can make one-hole groups out to 300 yards with no difficulty.

Shoot any quality automatic at least once with the best ammunition you can buy. That often works out to be Federal's Premium fodder or, at least in .30/06, Winchester's new 180-grain Supreme Silvertip. This will give you a good reading on what's happening. And bear in mind that most subguns especially and virtually all belt-feds work just fine with specialty bullets like the semiwadcutter Uzi/Samson "carbine" .45 by IMI or Winchester's Silvertips. Even most magazine fed guns work fine with softpoints, provided there's nothing real flat or sharply angled on the first contact surface. The MAC-10 being shot in the photo accompanying is firing the 158-grain IMI "subsonic" 9mm. load with a sound suppressor. Note the lack of ear protection.

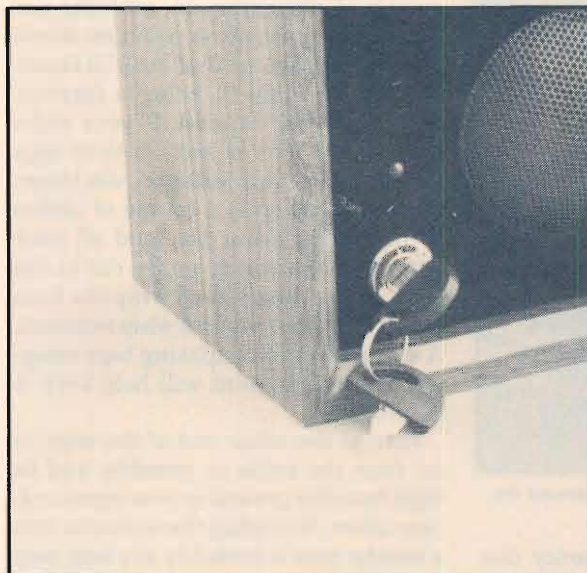
Tactically, automatic weapons of any sort are a series of compromises for a civilian, even in the most desperate straits. Recreationally, however, nothing in the shooting sports can compare. In slow fire with a B.A.R., you can gobble up money matches against fancy competition rifles. And the first time you crank off a 1,200-round per minute + burst downrange from an MG.42, you begin to understand why allied troops in World War II so feared and hated that gun and its unique sound. . . and why the men behind that gun began to feel omnipotent. . . as long as the ammo held out. ●

The Dutchman:

Portable Perimeter Alarm

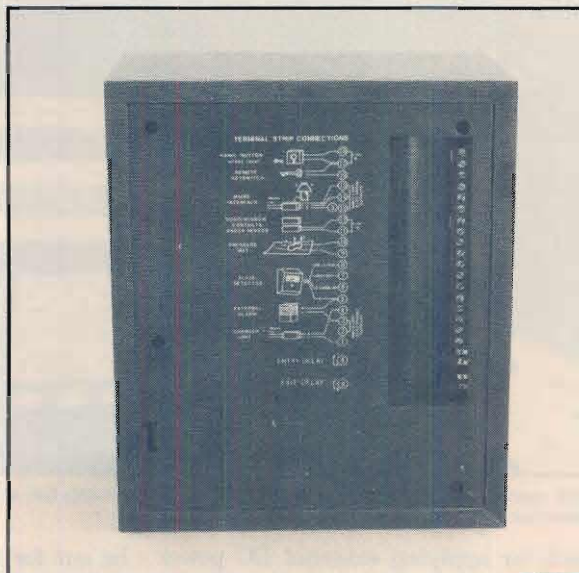


Disguised as an ordinary stereo speaker, this alarm has an infrared sensor with a 60-foot range. . .



A back panel terminal strip makes it easy to add accessories such as a pressure mat or external alarm.

Key switch has three settings: on/armed, off, and test.



Staff Evaluation

THE Super 6X electronic perimeter alarm protects an area up to 60 feet away and 60 feet wide with a powerful infrared sensor. A truly portable unit, the Super 6X is totally self contained in its stereo speaker box disguise — no outside wires or connections are necessary. It is battery operated and uses six AA penlight batteries.

The Super 6X is armed by using one of two keys supplied with the unit. By turning the key to the red "on/armed" position, the unit will then wait a specified delay period of 5 to 45 seconds to allow you to exit the room. When you return to the unit you are detected instantly upon entering

the protected zone, but the alarm is electronically delayed (adjustable from 5 to 24 seconds) allowing you to use your key to switch the unit back to the "off" position.

We tested the Super 6X at the office, at home, and even in an indoor basketball court to test the range of sensitivity. In each location the alarm worked flawlessly. At the basketball court the infrared sensor was able to detect a person at 85 feet. The angle of detection was just as the instructions said — 60 degrees. The ear piercing siren is extremely loud and would definitely shock and surprise an intruder. The people we tested it on were

very irritated by the sound.

Optional accessories such as a pressure mat, panic button, magnetic sensors for doors and windows, external horn for outside the house, etc., are available and can be easily hardwired to the unit on the terminal strip located on the back of the alarm. The Super 6X weighs under three pounds and measures 7"x4½"x8". A good security device for home, garage, shop, or work site. Order the Super 6X for \$68.50 postpaid from: The Dutchman, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 12548, Overland Park, KS 66212 or call (800) 821-5157. In Missouri call (816) 221-3581. ●

Survival Shortwave Receivers

(Continued from page 9)



One method of connecting an external antenna is by winding one end of the antenna wire around the telescopic antenna.

jack for applying external DC power is very useful, though not essential. If available, it ought to be capable of running straight from a 12-volt car battery or cigarette lighter. If a lower voltage such as six or nine volts is indicated, step-down adapters are commonly available in many electronic supply stores. Keeping a fresh supply of alkaline or lithium batteries on hand is always a smart idea. Lithium batteries are becoming widely available today, and while being far more expensive than their alkaline cousins, their shelf life and power output make them a worthwhile investment.

The antenna plays a crucial role in the efficient operation of your receiver. Fortunately, it is also one of the easiest accessories to construct, carry and erect at your location.

An efficient antenna should ideally

be cut for the specific frequency one is interested in, but for general use, one cut for the lowest frequency of interest will do quite well elsewhere in the spectrum. Construction couldn't be easier. A couple of hundred feet of 16- to 20-gauge plastic-insulated cable, not wire, purchased at your local hardware store, a means of measuring in feet or meters, and a small pair of long-nose pliers with a wire cutter is all you need. Some electricians tape will also be useful, but not essential.

Frequency is measured in cycles per second. Wavelength, on the other hand is commonly measured in meters. Your receiver's dial/display will either be marked in frequency (KHz and MHz), or on some older sets in wavelength (meters). As the frequency increases, the wavelength of that signal shortens, and vice versa. Knowing the wave-

length tells us how long the antenna should be. Usually the frequency but not the wavelength will be shown. The following formula will give you the exact wavelength in meters from any frequency: *Wavelength in meters = 300 divided by the frequency in Megahertz.*

For instance, a station on a frequency of 15 Megahertz has a wavelength of 20 meters. ($300 / 15 \text{ Mhz} = 20 \text{ meters}$) A quick and dirty way of converting meters to feet is to multiply the meters by three. While not exactly accurate, it's close enough for receiving purposes. In the above example this results in a 60-foot antenna. However, a half-wave antenna of 30 feet is really all you need if you don't have the space for a full-size version at your location.

Your receiver will probably have some means of attaching an external antenna. Using the above equation shows just how inefficient that built-in three-to nine-foot whip is, being a fraction of that ideally required. If your radio is equipped with a jack, or twin lugs for attaching your antenna, use them. If not, simply strip a couple of inches of insulation from the end of your antenna wire, which you've cut to the appropriate length, and wrap the bare end around the external whip antenna. A small piece of insulating tape wrapped around the joint will help keep it in place.

Extend the other end of the wire as far from the radio as possible, and as high from the ground as your surroundings allow. Stringing the antenna into a nearby tree is probably the best way to do this.

One final method of improving the receiver's performance would be to ground the chassis or the bottom antenna lug. However, a means for doing this may not be readily available, as water pipes are not commonly found in the wild. However, a couple of long nails, a length of copper pipe, or some tent pegs driven into the soil and connected to the radio by a short length of antenna wire will do in a pinch. If the local soil is relatively dry, soaking the area around the grounding pegs will greatly improve the conductivity and thus the ground. Since you are unlikely to pour your precious water into the soil, another means of wetting it down is usually available. I'm sure you'll figure it out for yourself when the time comes. ■

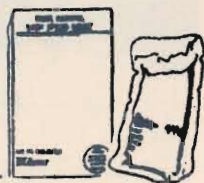
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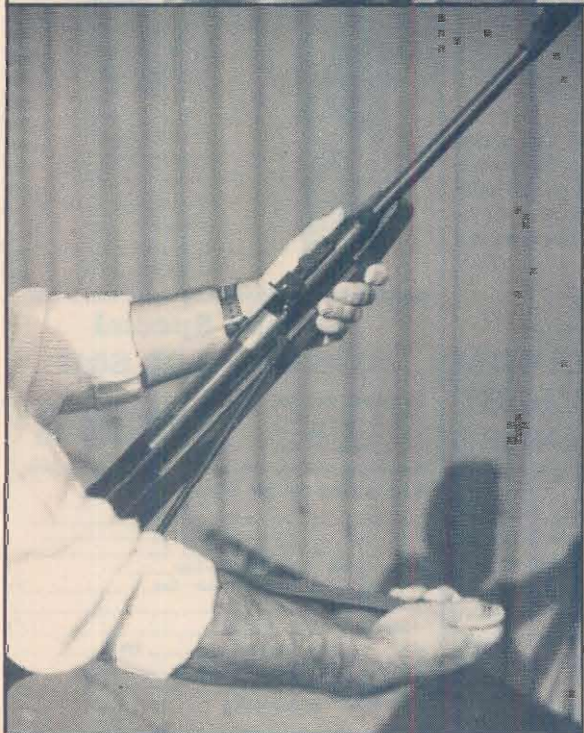
Staff Evaluation

AN air rifle can be a useful survival tool and the Model 52 by RWS Diana has more than enough power to take small game or eliminate pests such as rats or crows. With a 33 pound draw on the side cocking lever the rifle will send a .177 caliber pellet flying at an amazing 1,100 feet per second.

We tested the Model 52 indoors on sandbags with a distance of 10 meters to the paper targets. Straight out of the box we had groups of 1/2 inch using Meisterkugeln match pellets. To

Pellets are easily loaded into the breech.

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The Model 52 has a 33 lbs. cocking effort.





The accuracy of the Model 52 is apparent after only 30 rounds of practice.

achieve full power and accuracy it is recommended to shoot 500 rounds through the gun. After 20 rounds we ran felt cleaning patches through the bore and then resumed testing. Our final grouping was about 1/4 inch with all five holes touching.

Cocking the air rifle automatically sets the safety and a cocking safety lever prevents the piston from slamming back should your hand slip off the cocking lever. Trigger pull is 3.3 pounds coming from the factory. A hole in the trigger guard allows adjustment of two screws to adjust trigger pull. Trigger action was smooth and it was easy to feel the firing point.

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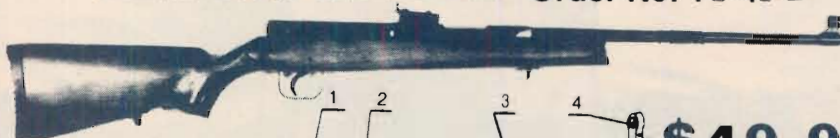
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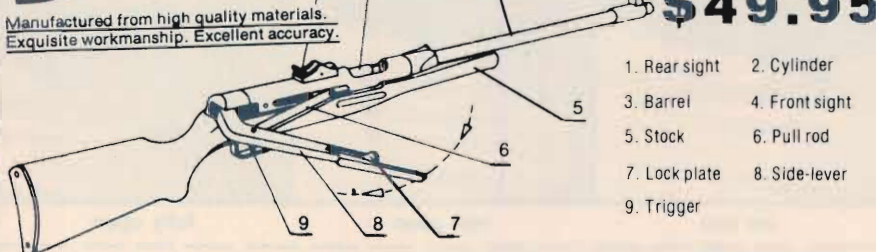
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
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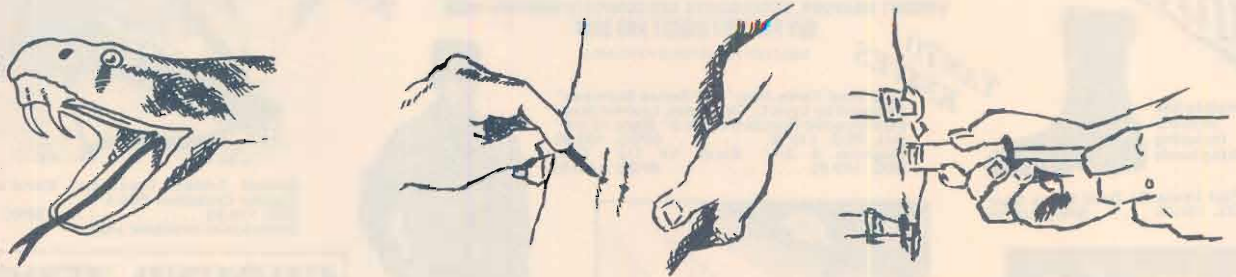
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Poisonous Snakes of the United States

(Continued from page 34)



The pit vipers — rattlesnakes, copperheads and water moccasins — all have very sharp, needle-like hollow fangs through which they inject their hemotoxic venom which destroys blood and tissues in their victims. If the bite is one in which venom is not injected too deeply in the wound, making small cuts (being careful not to cause too much damage to underlying tissues) and applying suction can be helpful in removing venom from the bite area. To perform this first aid procedure, make a small but sufficiently deep cut over each fang mark (1/4-inch or more. Avoid cutting blood vessels). Orient each cut generally parallel to the long axis of the limb. Apply suction using the mouth or using one of the modern syringe and suction cup kits for treating snakebite, such as the one available from Sawyer, to draw out the poison. Do not use the mouth if there is tooth decay or open sores in the mouth. Before performing this procedure, apply constricting bands (being careful that they are not too tight to cut off circulation) on each side of the fang marks, or the swelling around it, and leave them in place until the victim receives medical attention. Get the victim to a hospital or doctor as soon as possible.

first aid care only," says Glass. The bands restrict circulation, preventing rapid spreading of the venom, and cooling reduces fat and muscle temperatures, inactivating the enzymes and toxins in the venom. This reduces hemorrhaging and the cooled tissues usually show little damage.

The bands should not be tight and they should be kept in place until the victim arrives at the hospital or medical facility. Apply the band where it will logically prevent the spread of the swelling.

Ice should be applied in any common plastic or other bag. No salt or other substance should be added to make the ice colder.

Place the bitten area, if possible, at a level or dependent position. Do not elevate the area of the bite or the swelling will spread more rapidly toward the body.

Constricting bands and cooling, Dr. Glass states, "can be used for all snakebites. This method is effective, safe and will do no harm to the victim." Constricting bands can be made from any number of expedient materials, natural and manmade, which are at hand. But if bands and cooling are not available, don't waste time looking for them. Get the victim to medical attention as soon as possible.

Antivenin is a very good drug for snakebite made from horse blood, says Glass, but it should not be taken into the field as it is very dangerous and it can cause shock and death. It should only be administered by a physician or other knowledgeable professional.

Glass recommends that to protect yourself from snakebite wear some type of protection on your feet and legs at least 20 inches high. Leather shoes and

boots are best. He notes that he has never seen a snakebite that penetrated a regular leather shoe or boot in which a significant amount of venom was injected.

It is helpful to bring the snake that caused the bite (after killing it) to the hospital, but don't waste time or endanger yourself or others trying to catch the snake and kill it. Before he will perform the rather dangerous treatment for coral snakebite, Glass requires that the snake be brought to him for positive identification.

While rattlesnakes can sound their rattles before they strike, Glass says he has never treated a patient that heard the rattle before being bitten.

Glass is studying and plans experiments related to a new and controversial treatment for snakebite using electric shocks, such as some people are employing with stun guns and car batteries. But from his initial studies and observations he can see no benefit to the victim at all and is not recommending this controversial method of care for snakebite, he says.

At all times when you are in an area where snakes are known to be, watch where you move and stand or sit. Do not put your hands in holes or under brush or leaves, use a long stick to explore these areas if necessary to do so. Never pick up or handle snakes, this is rather dangerous and asking for trouble. Snakes are best left alone. They are quite beneficial to the environment and should not be bothered by man unless they present a clear danger to humans.

Alcohol for snakebite can be very dangerous, according to Glass. When mixed with venom it can cause the heart to stop and he recommends

against alcohol being applied to the bite area.

Death from snakebite in a normal healthy young adult is very unlikely if no first aid or treatment is given, according to Dr. Glass, though loss of function of a part of an extremity can occur in severe bites and occasionally if proper care is not given, amputation of extremities may be required.

There are times when people hike or travel through remote wilderness areas where exposure to large rattlesnakes is unavoidable and care for the bite is many hours away. In these special circumstances Glass recommends the following **FOR QUALIFIED MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS ONLY:**

He carries a kit which contains two soft rubber tourniquets, two chemical cold packs, a 4-inch Ace elastic bandage, a package of 12 4x4 gauze sponges, three 2cc ampules of 2% xylocaine, a syringe and needle to inject the xylocaine, 1,000 mgm vial of Solu-Cortef (mix-a-vial), a sterile syringe and needle to inject the cortisone intravenously, a sterile scalpel, alcohol or other antiseptic (phisoex, Betadine, etc.).

When there is the suspicion that a large amount of venom has been injected in a bite: place a tourniquet immediately above and below the bite; cleanse the area with antiseptic solution; inject 4-6 cc of xylocaine around the fang marks; totally excise (remove) all of the skin and fat in the area of the fang marks; make a longitudinal slit in the fascia (covering of the muscle); apply gauze dressings and wrap the Ace bandage tightly around this; if nausea and vomiting occur give 1,000 mgm of Solu-Cortef straight I.V.; get the victim to a hospital as quickly as feasible. ●

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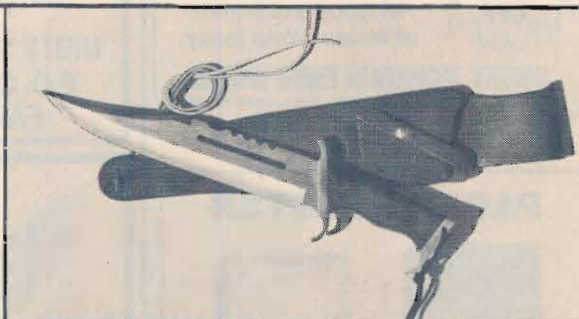
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BOOKS/VIDEOS

(Continued from page 13)

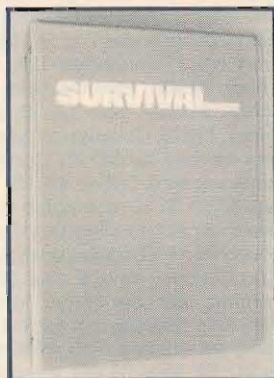
American Mercenaries, The True Story of Mitchell L. WerBell III, a video produced and directed by S.C. Lewanowicz. Approximately 45 minutes; \$14.95 plus \$3.25 shipping and handling. Available from Brigade Quartermasters, Ltd., 1025 Cobb International Blvd., Kennesaw, GA 30144 or call (800) 228-7344; (404) 428-1248.

Mitch WerBell, a legend in military and para-military circles, served with the OSS during WWII working behind enemy lines in one suicide mission after another. As a specialist in covert operations and unconventional weapons, he created controversy wherever he went. The video is filmed on location at his Sionics Anti-Terrorist Training Center and details a lot of what goes on at his para-military training school. WerBell was instrumental in the development of the "whispering death" Sionics suppressor, a device used with the Ingram Model 10 submachine gun to clear out Vietcong in underground tunnels during the Vietnam war. The MAC 10 is demonstrated on the video with the Sionics suppressor. Other skills taught at the school and demonstrated on the video are hatchet throwing, martial arts, instinct shooting, evasive driving skills, and automatic weapons use. ●



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MAIL CALL

Radio Survival

Regarding the article "Survival Via Radio" in your December 1988 issue, I would like to offer additional information. Besides the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter HF bands, the World Administrative Radio Conference of 1979 granted three additional short-wave bands to Amateurs. Of these, 30 meters (10.100-10.150 MHz) and 12 meters (24.890-24.990 MHz) have been available for American Hams for several years. The third band allocated, 17 meters (18.068-18.168), has been made available to Hams in about 65 countries and should be authorized for U.S. Amateur use within the next year. There are currently U.S. government stations using this band that need to be moved. The 2 meter VHF band mentioned is not just from 146-148 MHz. It runs all the way from 144 to 148 MHz and those bottom two megahertz contain several important voice and data sub bands. Hams are slated to lose the bottom two megahertz of the 220-225 MHz band to another radio service. This is being appealed. On the subject of RACES, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service is unfortunately alive only in the regulation books. Although it was legally permitted, RACES was rarely (if ever) activated in a bona fide emergency. It seemed to be on stand by only for war contrary to its stated purpose. New RACES licenses have not been issued in many years. Fortunately, ARES (mentioned in the article) and the Hams have done an outstanding job of providing the public services required.

J. Lincoln Thorner
Brooklyn, New York

Thanks for the update.

Thank You ASG

I have recently extended my subscription for two years, until February 1991. Enclosed please find another check to extend my subscription for an addi-

tional two years, until February 1993. I first found *American Survival Guide* in May 1982 at a convenience store. I laughed, but I purchased it and the subsequent issues. I quit laughing when I faced down six drugged bikers at 2 a.m. in August 1982. God loved me that night because all I had was a single shot. 22 and two rounds. I married in October 1983. My wife was a typical anti-gun New York City type. We had a heated discussion two weeks after the honeymoon when she found an HK I own. I kept the weapon and have since added to the number. Over the years she has regarded my interest in weapons as a male aberration on the order of football or car racing. She has seen some utility in the other aspects of survival: extra food, useful equipment like the Mag-Lite, etc. Yesterday morning at 3:30 we were rudely awakened by a man pounding on our door, yelling obscenities as he demanded entrance to call his grandmother. We refused him entry and called police. They came within 20 minutes. An hour after it started, the police were gone and a wrecker had the man's car in tow. Yesterday evening, as we watched our 2-year-old daughter play in the living room, my now non-laughing wife said she was glad the weapons were at hand. Thank you ASG. The man did not break in and no shots were fired. If he had, he would have had to deal with my large caliber surprise. I had peace of mind and was ready to be tested in a situation that could have grown ugly, real fast. Again, thank you ASG. I look forward to extending my subscription again.

Neil Wright
Irmo, South Carolina

You have described exactly what survivalism is all about, Neil. We certainly appreciate your comments and your interest in the magazine. We'll do our best not to let that interest down. We're continuing to grow and to attract new readers who, like yourself and your wife, realize how important preparedness is. ●




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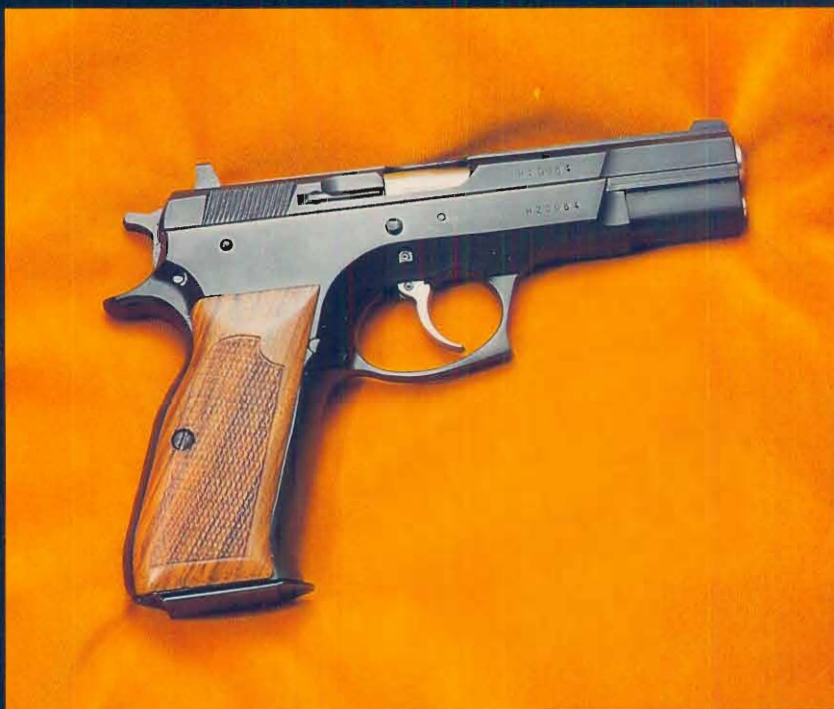
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PRIZE NO. 1

TZ-75 Series 88 9mm Parabellum (NATO) semi-automatic pistol from F.I.E. Corp., Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 4866, Hialeah, FL 33014; (305) 685-5966. The TZ-75 Series 88 is a redesigned, upgraded version of F.I.E.'s popular TZ-75 9mm auto pistol which itself is a variant of the famous Czech CZ-75 pistol. With a slightly different shape and heavier with stronger steel than used in the original TZ-75, the Series 88 pistol has a frame mounted sear locking safety permitting the gun to be carried "cocked and locked" with a round in the chamber. There is also a Colt style automatic firing pin locking safety in the Series 88. Its barrel swells at the muzzle, improving lock-up and overall function and facilitating threading to accommodate a muzzle compensator. Grips on this gun are rich walnut but also available are rosewood, ebony micarta, black checkered rubber, checkered, smooth or scrimshawed ivory polymer. The Giveaway gun finish is satin blue. Other finishes available are matte chrome and combination chrome frame and blue slide. The Series 88 is made by Armi Fratelli Tanfoglio SPA of Italy for F.I.E. Retail value about \$450.



PRIZE NO. 2

The R.S.I. Field PAC Kit emergency first aid kit from NITRO-PAK Storage Foods & Emergency Supplies, Dept. ASG, 11018 E. Rosecrans Ave., Suite 300, Norwalk, CA 90650; (213) 929-4705. This compact kit provides the paramedic, E.M.T. or first responder with the equipment and supplies that are immediately needed for comprehensive emergency care at any scene. The kit has been proven through its extensive use by all phases of Emergency Medical Services, military and government agencies for more than five years. Each item in the kit has been selected for its exceptional quality and suitability in the emergency environment. The four main compartments have each been organized according to standard emergency care priorities and there is enough space remaining for individual preference or local protocols to include medications, I.V. sets or other additions. The kit is housed in a detachable backpack system in bright orange which can be carried like a suitcase or worn like a pack. Retail value: \$325.



PRIZE NO. 3

The Tigershark bowie knife from SOG Specialties, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 1006, Santa Monica, CA 90406; (213) 451-4292. Ground from a select high carbon stainless steel custom smelted and rolled for SOG Specialties, the 9-inch long, .250-inch thick blade of the Tigershark combines handsome grind lines and custom quality rolled edge with faceted reinforced tip. Heat treated to a Rockwell hardness of 55-57, the blade is easily honed regardless of environment. The handle is molded Kraton and completely surrounds the tang. It has ribbed finger grooves and checkering to ensure a firm grip and includes a lanyard hole. The knife comes with the elegant, very strong black leather sheath shown and carries SOG Specialties' lifetime guarantee of satisfaction. Value is \$140.



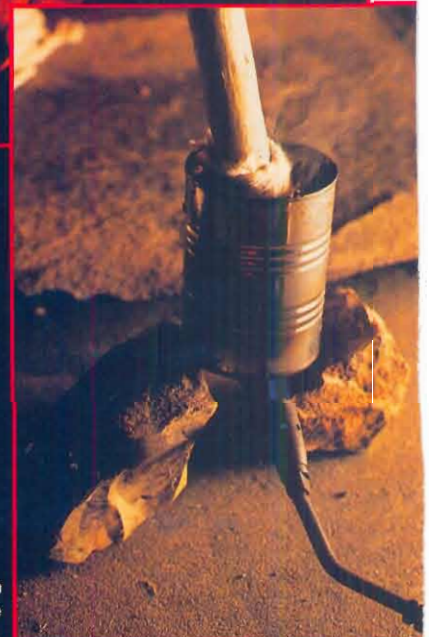
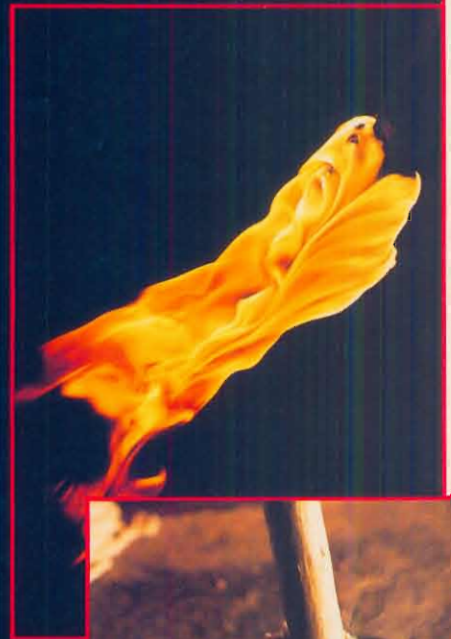


Cotton rope from a mop was found to be a good absorbent wick.

Hold the torch at a slight angle so that hot pine resin won't drip on your hand.



Pine resin torches are bright and smoky.



The pine gum was heated in a tin can and then allowed to seep into the cotton wicking of the torch.

Flickering Torches

The first portable light of primitive man may still prove useful to signal and find the way. . .

By Scott Stoddard

EARLY man had a problem. With no light bulbs, Coleman lanterns, kerosene lamps, or candles to light the way, he was limited to staring into his campfire on those dark moonless nights.

Wandering in the blackness of a primeval forest was not only difficult without light, it was dangerous. There were wild beasts both real and imaginary lurking in the shadows, and the light from his campfire didn't extend very far from the hearth. Throwing a burning ember at a prowling animal would frighten it away, but it wasn't until man took a lighted branch and carried it out into the dark did man invent the first device for artificial lighting — the torch.

After years of experience with his environment, man began to learn about the qualities of many kinds of woods and materials around him. The temporary torch of a burning stick was soon replaced with well made torches of pine splints, loaded with pine fat or resin. Other kinds of resinous wood were used in areas where pine did not grow, but it is pine that has been the favorite torch wood of man.

The ancient Greeks, in their festival to Rhea, the nature goddess, sang: "For thee, O Mother, resound the wide circles of the cymbals and the ringing crotola (rattle), for thee burn the torches of yellow pine." In ancient Mexico torch bearers staggered and sometimes fell under the burden of huge bundles of sacred pine that illuminated their ceremonies.



These small pine resin torches burned brightly for a good 15 minutes.

In search for better illumination, torch makers bound together bundles of reeds, weed stalks, palm leaf, etc., and devised torches that were much better than simple pieces of wood.

In the East Indies men wrapped resin in palm leaf and made torches resembling candles which gave off perfumed smoke and burned a long time. The Polynesians of the Pacific Islands strung the oily meats of a nut on slender rods. When the nut at the top was lighted they burned one after the

other, giving good illumination. The Indians of Panama used the same sort of torch.

Torches were especially useful for hunting and fishing. Because some animals are attracted or become blinded by torchlight they are more easily captured. With a torch of pine splints or a roll of birch bark in the prow of a graceful canoe, an intent Indian with a harpoon standing behind the light and a paddler in the stern form one of the more dramatic survival scenes

Flickering Torches



Before and after the cotton is dipped in hot resin. Once cooled, the pine pitch is hard and no longer sticky.

in early American history.

Throughout the early ages of man and before the more modern inventions of the candle and oil lamp, the torch was highly revered. It became a symbol of pomp and power. It attended the march of armies and blazed its light on both barbarian and ancient Roman festivals.

Making a torch today in a wilderness survival situation might prove difficult if you have never done it. Most of the survival books in print today don't tell how. If you try to make one like those used by early man, remember to take extreme precaution. Find a place (preferably outdoors) that is free of combustible materials and has good ventilation. Don't use gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid or any other modern petroleum product. That's cheating.

Take a trip to the mountains or find a local park that has pine trees. With a knife or a small ice pick scrape off

any pine gum you can find on the trunk of the tree. There is usually a lot where branches have been cut off or where the bark has been removed. Be sure not to damage the tree. Pine pitch can be found in various textures and appearances. Anywhere from a hard white lard to a clear sticky sap. Sometimes you can find it solid, clear and yellow like amber. Collect all the scrapings in a plastic bag until you have at least four to eight ounces of the stuff.

The next step is to obtain a tin can and place the pine resin in the can. Slowly heat up the resin in the can over a small fire or camp stove. Do it slowly — pitch boils at low temperatures and the smoke is highly flammable. If you try to melt the pitch too fast it will probably burst into flames.

I experimented with different wicking materials. Manila rope, palm leaves, and cattails were used. One of the best materials was cotton. Cut lengths of

cotton rope from a heavy duty cleaning mop and wrap and tie these to a wooden stick. When the pine resin is sufficiently melted, dip the cotton wrapped stick into the can and twirl it until the cotton is saturated with pitch. When the pine pitch cools you have a real torch ready for cave exploration or survival fishing.

Pine resin torches are smoky and the hot burning pitch will drip at times. Don't use a torch indoors or in a tent. And watch your hands so you don't get burned. The torches I made were bright and fairly wind resistant.

There is something inspiring about the torch. The dramatic flickering flames of the torch have been used many times in the movies. The torch has been seen in all forms of art (Lady Liberty, the Olympic Flame, etc.) and has been regarded as a symbol of conquest, and much finer, as a symbol of the spread of knowledge. ●

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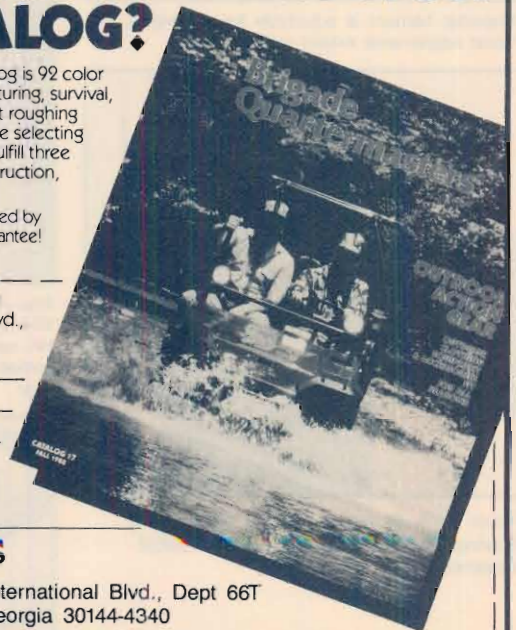
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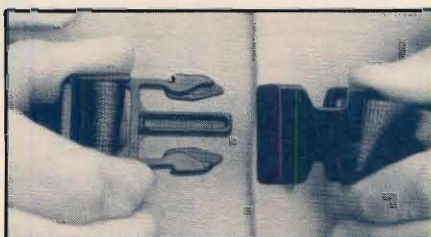
Made of Cordura nylon to military specifications. . .



Shoulder harness is adjustable for all heights. Waist adjustments extend to 54 inches.



Four large magazine pockets will hold eight 30-rd. M16 mags, four 20-rd. M14 mags or 12 Uzi or HK mags or 100 12 gauge shotgun shells. Two pockets hold fragmentation grenades or other gear.



Recon Pack will fasten onto the Tactical Load Bearing Vest, G.I. pistol belt or LC-1 combat suspenders.

Vest is secured with non-slip Fastex buckles.



Staff Report

DESIGNED for combat loads, the Tactical Load Bearing Vest from Flanagan Manufacturing Company (FMCO) is made of MIL-C-43734 DuPont Cordura Nylon and is available in woodland camouflage or black.

The four large vest pockets will hold eight M16 30-round magazines, four M14 20-round magazines, 12 Uzi 25-round magazines, 12 HK MP5 30-round magazines, or 100 12 gauge shotgun shells. There are also two fragmentation grenade pockets. All pockets have Fastex snap and Velcro closures.

Foam rubber shoulder harness is fully adjustable for all heights. Waist adjustment extends to 54 inches, using webbing and non-slip buckles. Front closures are adjustable quick release buckles. Belt loops are provided for the attachment of the standard G.I. pistol belt (not included). D-rings on the harness are provided for the attachment of FMCO's Recon Pack. The vests are \$79.95 each plus \$5 S&H.

The Recon Pack is a universal pack for multiple load configurations. Besides being designed for attachment to the vest, it can be attached to the G.I. LC-1 combat suspenders for use as a light jungle pack. Eyelets and LC-1 belt keepers provided for attachment to your G.I. pistol belt as a standard butt pack. Attachment straps tuck into the pack through a provided slot. The flap has adjustable quick release buckles. Made of the same Cordura nylon and to military specifications for ruggedness and long life. The Recon Pack is \$19.95 plus S&H.

Order these and other military equipment items direct from FMCO, Dept. ASG, 1008 Hiller Road, Building 2, McKinleyville, CA 95521-4117; (707) 839-1256. Catalog \$2. ●

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